Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-176 *12 September 1994*

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Spain's Gonzalez Visits Paraguay, Discusses International Issues

Comments on Possible EU-Mercosur Accord

PY0909113594 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Sep 94 p 4

[Excerpt] During a news conference at the Lopez Palace in our capital on the last day of his official visit, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez announced that the European Union has given instructions to the Commission (a type of executive council) to review the possibility of signing a preferential agreement with the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] as soon as possible.

This is valuable information for our country because Spain currently has the EU presidency.

"We have insisted upon the existence of some type of preferential agreement, possibly free trade agreements, but also technological, research, development, and financial cooperation agreements between the EU and Mercosur," Gonzalez noted.

Gonzalez made it clear that the particulars of this agreement have not yet been determined. "Nevertheless, the EU's willingness to implement this type of agreement has indeed been defined," he stressed. [passage omitted]

Urges Castro To Reform

PY0909042094 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Sep 94 p 5

[Text] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez stressed on 7 September that the Latin American countries do not like the blockade against Cuba, and that jointly and together with the Ibero-American sphere, they are awaiting an open democracy and economy in the socialist country that is governed by Fidel Castro.

"We believe that the blockade is inconvenient, but we deeply believe in the need for changes in the economic and political areas," Gonzalez said, when he was asked for his opinion on the Cuban situation, which is again in the limelight because of the upcoming meeting of the Rio Group and in view of the ever-increasing social problem of the raft people who are trying to escape from the island and seek refuge in other countries of the hemisphere.

"We believe in the need of a transition from the current situation to a situation that will lead to an opening for political and economic freedom, and we believe that the time to do it is now because the peaceful means are becoming exhausted; therefore, we are willing to accompany, help, and cooperate with that opening," the prime minister said. On returning to his country, Gonzalez will meet with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, who is visiting Madrid. In this respect, he indicated that Spain is implementing a development program to help Cuba.

President Juan Carlos Wasmosy told Paraguayan and foreign reporters that "I want to add to what the prime minister has said in that the presidents will express their unanimous desire at the Ibero-American conference, and we will surely express this desire in the upcoming Rio Group meeting, that we have the hope that it will be Commander Fidel Castro himself who will begin the reforms in his country in such a way that the transition will go as smoothly as possible."

He recalled that during the last Rio Group meeting, held in Cartagena, Colombia [as published], the manifest political position of the presidents was that they were against the blockade, "but all of us were expecting a word, a clear signal from Commander Fidel Castro that he was on the path toward a process of change, of a democratic opening, of an economic opening in his country for the good of the Cuban people in order not to remain as the only nation that is still not breathing the air of freedom, peace, and democracy," Wasmosy concluded.

Japan, Argentina Agree To Discuss Fishery Problems

OW0309050494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, Sept. 2 KYODO—Japanese and Argentine Foreign Ministers Yohei Kono and Guido Di Tella agreed Friday [2 September] to hold regular bilateral meetings to discuss fishery problems, officials said.

Fishery officials from Japan and Argentina have been holding unofficial discussions on development and protection of resources and technical cooperation. However, the meetings will be held on a regular basis.

The first working-level meeting is scheduled to take place within this year in Buenos Aires after which the two countries will take turns to host the meetings.

Last year Argentina's fishery exports to Japan totaled 115 million dollars, accounting for 23 percent of its total exports to Japan.

Kono visited Brazil before coming to Argentina. After Argentina, he will visit Egypt and the United States.

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Cuba

Alarcon on Prospects for Long-Range Negotiations

FL0909165294 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Interview with Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, head of the Cuban delegation to the U.S.-Cuban talks, by Julio Gomez Usia; place and date not given; from the "First Thing" program—recorded]

[Text] [Usia] We asked Ricardo Alarcon if he was aware of the statements made by the [Democratic party leaders] of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the [U.S.] Senate and House of Representatives, who have called for an end to the Cuban blockade.

[Alarcon] Yes, the most recent ones, published today. However, both Senator Pell and Representative Hamilton have been making very clear and categorical statements these last few weeks. I took part in a CNN television program with Hamilton. He reiterated an idea that I believe is growing in the United States. Important personalities in the Senate and House of Representatives are calling for a more ample dialogue between the two governments, and they do so within the [word indistinct] of the blockade. These personalities we have mentioned are well aware of international policy as they head the Foreign Affairs Committees of both the Senate and the House of Representatives. We could say that they are somewhat liberal, but there are conservatives making statements on radio and television, and something similar is happening in the press. Almost everyday the main newspapers are insisting on the same position.

[Usia] Has there been an increase in this lately?

[Alarcon] Yes, I believe it is something that is growing. Furthermore, here is something very interesting, especially for you reporters: Except for Torricelli and this trio of former Cubans, Representatives from Florida and New Jersey, you will not find anyone, absolutely anyone, these days favoring strengthening or even maintaining current U.S. policy. Practically, among the people, there is a substantial consensus of varied ideas. However, these people agree on the necessity for the United States, even from the point of view of the real interest of U.S. companies, to abandon its absurd Cuban policy.

[Usia] Has the issue of the Cubans presently at the Guantanamo Naval Base and in Panama been discussed at the talks?

[Alarcon] Those are issues that are being discussed and probably will be reflected in the agreement, which could eventually be reached.

[Usia] Alarcon, could these talks be the beginning of a definite negotiation process with the U.S. Government?

[Alarcon] I could but should not say that that may be a result of these negotiations. That is, I cannot give any interpretations that would involve both sides. I believe that, and in a certain sense, it is what I recently stated in English—that even though the blockade exists, if both sides, two governments that do not have relations, are able to meet, discuss, and negotiate on the same level, that in itself is a positive step. Secondly, if we are capable of normalizing relations on immigration ... [changes thought] in 1984 we theoretically achieved this, and back then, the blockade existed and the situation had not improved between Cuba and the United States. However, from 1984 to date, they have not complied with their side of the agreement. Today there is a blockade as there was back then, but if we can reach an agreement through which we can truly normalize relations on immigration, I believe that would be an important step in somewhat normalizing relations between the two countries. In a sense, that would be seen as a step that could lead to a subsequent normalization of relations. I believe that it is something to be hoped for. That would be my hope. I would say, hopefully, that the answer to your question is yes. However, I believe that it would not be valid for me to draw conclusions from talks that involve someone else, do you understand?

EFE Reports Agreement Reached Between U.S., Cuba

PA0909194894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1850 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] New York, 9 Sep (EFE)—State Department sources have reported Cuba and the United States today reached an agreement to resolve the crisis of the "rafters."

Mike McCurry, U.S. State Department spokesman, called a news conference for 1500 (1900 GMT) at the U.S. UN Mission where today's meetings were held. Even though McCurry did not officially confirm that an agreement had been reached, he did say a news conference would not be called "had an agreement not been reached."

Other State Department sources confirmed, however, that an agreement was reached and that the details would be announced during the news conference Michael Skol, head of the U.S. negotiating team, would hold.

The negotiations between the Cuban and U.S. delegations, which began on 1 September, were interrupted on 7 September so Ricardo Alarcon, head of the Cuban negotiating team, could consult with his government.

McCurry said, however, there are still certain details on which the delegations are working.

In his brief statements to the press, McCurry said his government is "pleased many of our goals were attained during today's meeting." McCurry provided no additional details.

These talks between the United States and Cuba were requested by Washington in the hopes of reaching an

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agreement with Havana that would allow an end to the massive exodus of Cuban "rafters," which has surpassed 34,000 this year alone.

According to sources close to the negotiations, the latest U.S. proposal to Cuba dealt with more flexibility in its requirements for the concession of immigrant visas to Cubans so that 27,000 visas can be granted yearly.

The U.S. Government had previously agreed with the Cuban Government to concede that number of visas annually, but due to the heavy requirements imposed on the Cubans, particularly that they must have a close relative that is a U.S. citizen, it granted only one-tenth of the visas agreed upon.

Our sources said the Cubans also expected to receive from the United States a mechanism whereby they would be compensated for the visas that were not granted over the past 10 years, which would allow the legal departure from Cuba of long lists of emigre candidates to the United States.

Although the Cuban Government attended these talks demanding to also discuss other bilateral issues with the United States, particularly the embargo imposed on the island 32 years ago, the negotiations focused on the problem of the exodus of the "rafters," according to our sources.

McCurry insisted today on this issue, hinting talks pertaining to the embargo will not be held with Cuba.

Skol is expected to announce the details of this agreement during the news conference.

Radio Havana Reports Accord

PA1009010794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Sep 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The Governments of Cuba and the United States reached this Friday, an agreement on migration issues in which Washington promises to grant a minimum of 20,000 visas a year to Cubans who wish to travel illegally [as heard] to U.S. territory and in which Havana will have to take effective measures to prevent unsafe departures from the island.

According to an AFP report, White House spokesperson Dee Dee Myers asserted that Cuban authorities also promised to look for diplomatic solutions for the Cuban refugees who are at the Guantanamo Naval Base and wish to return to their country. According to this source, the United States will immediately allow 6,000 people, who are on a waiting list to obtain visas in Havana, to enter their territory. The agreement reached in New York this Friday, by the Cuban and U.S. delegations has ended seven rounds of negotiations, which both parties described as professional, serious, and profound.

Joint Communique Issued

PA1009002594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2324 GMT 9 Sep 94

["Joint Communique of the Agreement Between Cuba and the United States"—PRENSA LATINA headline]

[Text] United Nations, 9 Sep (PL)—Cuba and the United States today reached an agreement on migration intended to end the crisis caused by the exodus of illegal Cuban emigrants to U.S. territory.

Hereunder is the joint communique:

Representatives of the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba today concluded talks regarding their mutual interest in normalizing migratory procedures and agreed to take measures to ensure that migration between the two countries be safe, legal, and orderly.

Security on the High Seas

The United States and the Republic of Cuba recognize their mutual interest in preventing risky departures from Cuba that endanger human lives. The United States underscored their recent decision aimed at discouraging risky voyages. In accordance with those decisions, emigres rescued from the sea and who attempt to enter the United States will not be allowed entry into the United States, but will instead be taken to refuge installations outside the United States. In addition, the United States has discontinued its practice of granting provisional admission to all Cuban immigrants who arrive in U.S. territory by irregular means. The Republic of Cuba will take effective measures in every way it can to prevent unsafe departures, using mainly persuasive methods.

Immigrant Traffic

The United States and the Republic of Cuba reaffirmed their support to the recently adopted UN General Assembly resolution on immigrant traffic. The United States and the Republic of Cuba pledged to cooperate to take timely and effective action to prevent the illegal transportation of people destined for the United States. Both governments will take effective measures, in every possible way, to oppose and prevent the use of violence by all people who try to arrive and who arrive in the United States from Cuba by forced hijacking of aircraft or ships.

The United States and the Republic of Cuba have agreed to lead Cuban migration through safe, legal, and orderly channels through strict application of the 1984 joint communique. Consequently, the United States will continue to issue, in accordance with U.S. law, visas for immigrants with immediate relatives in the United States and other preferences for Cuban citizens who visit the U.S. Interests Section and who are eligible to migrate to the United States. Likewise, by means of other U.S. legal dispositions, the United States agrees to authorize and facilitate an additional legal migration from Cuba to the United States. The United States maintains that the

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total legal migration of Cubans to the United States will be a minimum of 20,000 Cubans per year, excluding the next of kin of U.S. citizens. As an additional and special measure, the United States will facilitate within a one-year period the granting of documents permitting the migration to the United States of those qualified Cuban citizens who are presently in Cuba and who are currently on a waiting list for immigrant visas. With this purpose in mind, both sides will work together to facilitate the necessary procedures for the implementation of the measure. Both governments agree to authorize the necessary personnel to allow their respective interests sections to implement the dispositions contained in this communique in an effective manner.

Voluntary Return

The United States and the Republic of Cuba agreed that the voluntary return of Cuban citizens who arrived in the United States or in refugee centers outside the United States as of 19 August 1994 will continue to be arranged through diplomatic channels.

Excluded Persons

The United States and the Republic of Cuba agreed to continue holding talks on the return of Cuban citizens who may be excluded [excluibles] from the United States.

Agreement Evaluation

The representatives of the United States and the Republic of Cuba agreed to meet again no later than 45 days following today's announcement to evaluate the implementation of this joint communique. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled by mutual agreement.

Cuban Delegation Satisfied

PA1009001694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2339 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] United Nations, 9 Sep (PL)—The Cuban delegation today expressed its satisfaction with the agreement reached with the United States on immigration matters.

Carlos Fernandez de Cossio, a member of the negotiating group that accompanied Ricardo Alarcon, head of the delegation in the week-long talks, told PRENSA LATINA that his country is satisfied with the document.

He added that Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, will appear today on New York television to explain the results of the talks and his country's opinion of the process and its culmination today.

For its part, the White House issued a statement referring to the agreement. According to that note, the United States committed itself to accept a minimum of 20,000 Cuban legal immigrants, a figure which could increase to 26,000.

Both figures fall within the quota established by the immigration law approved by Congress, which permits the entry into the United States of up to over 27,500 Cuban immigrants annually.

According to the document, both governments will adopt effective measures within their reach to avert or prevent the use of violence on the part of any person seeking to arrive or who arrives in the United States from Cuba by forcefully hijacking aircraft or boats.

They also agreed to settle through diplomatic channels the voluntary return to Cuba of rafters who are on Guantanamo Naval Base and in Panama at this time.

President William Clinton voiced his satisfaction with the agreement and said he will help to ensure that the dangerous and illegal massive immigration flow is replaced by a safe, legal, and more organized process, according to a communique released by the White House.

Alarcon Comments on Accord

FL1009032494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, head of the Cuban delegation to Cuban-U.S. talks, by Roberto Cavada; Alarcon is in New York, while Cavada is in Havana; from the "Exclusive" program—live]

[Text] [Cavada] We have already broadcast the agreement that was reached this afternoon and would like you to summarize the main points for us on migration between Cuba and the United States.

[Alarcon] There are several important points to the agreement.

On the one hand, it deals with illegal emigration to the United States. The United States reiterated clearly and categorically its recently adopted policy of not allowing anyone into the United States who arrives or tries to arrive outside of normal emigration channels. The United States also reiterated that it has ended the practice that had been in effect since 1 January 1959 of automatically accepting anyone who made it to U.S. territory from Cuba illegally.

On the other hand, Cuba has pledged to take effective steps to prevent perilous departures, mostly through persuasive methods—that is, by trying to persuade and convince people without violence or force. Obviously, leaving in rafts no longer makes sense since the radical change in U.S. policy makes it clear that these people will not be allowed to enter.

There are other very important points to the accord. For example, there's the pledge that both sides have made to condemn and prevent violent hijackings of planes and ships from Cuba to the United States. This is the first time the U.S. Government has agreed to this. This was one of the holes, one of the missing pieces, in previous

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accords. They never included a pledge like this. Therefore, two significant changes in U.S. immigration policy have been made with the end to the policy that has been in effect since 1 January 1959 of automatically accepting any Cuban—including murderers, hijackers, etc.—who reaches the United States. They now say—and actually do, in practice—that no one arriving illegally will be allowed in and pledge to take special measures against those who take ships or planes.

Another significant point is the agreement on legal migration. With the immigration accord signed in 1984, the United States only pledged to issue up to 20,000 visas to emigres annually—that is, 20,000 was the ceiling, the maximum. In practice, only five percent of these were granted. The United States failed to meet this part of the agreement. They once pledged to issue at least 20,000 visas a year; now, it is not a theoretical goal, a ceiling, but a point of departure, as pledged by them. They also agreed or pledged to issue visas within a year from the signing of this accord to everyone who qualified to emigrate to the United States and who is on a waiting list. There are people in Cuba who have completed all the paperwork, who have relatives in the United States who have summoned them, and, due to U.S. bureaucracy and red tape, wait for years to travel. In addition, there are actually—Comrade Fidel explained on TV the policy of blocking legal immigration to encourage illegal emigration as a tool to destabilize and create domestic unrest—thousands of people who have been waiting for a visa for years who were not issued visas as a means to create unrest.

They pledged that all those on the waiting list will be processed within a year, between September '94 and September '95. This is a significant pledge. This is the first time that the United States has pledged in an effective agreement to issue at least so many visas rather than just the top number.

There are other points to the accord, such as the voluntary return of those people who left Cuba during this period. It was agreed that they can use normal channels. It is not a matter of everyone who left who has changed their minds now being able to return automatically. One has to examine the possibility through normal channels, as it has been done on other occasions and in other cases.

The idea of excluding people reminds me of the 1984 agreement, which included a list of people we decided to allow to return to Cuba. The truth is that legal complications have prevented the majority from returning. Although this issue had been raised at other negotiations, we decided to raise it again.

In essence, these are the main points of the accord. Of course, we will meet in one and one-half months to determine whether the agreements are being met.

[Cavada] The Cuban delegation said from the start that it would only sit down with the United States if the blockade—the embargo, as they call it—were up for discussion. The text of the joint communique does not say anything about the blockade. What about this thorny and complex issue, particularly for the United States? Will it be left for the next meeting in 45 days?

[Alarcon] We never said that a discussion of the blockade was a condition for sitting down to negotiate about immigration. What we said before the talks, repeated during the talks, and are saying after the talks is that we must discuss and eliminate the main cause of the immigration problem—namely, the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba—to reach a definite, lasting, and complete solution. It is obvious. Many who left Cuba in recent weeks have even said this, that they are leaving due to the economic difficulties they face in Cuba and conditions under the U.S. blockade.

This is what we believe. However, at the same time, we accepted the invitation to meet on the migration issue even though we know the main cause. The United States did not even wish to discuss it. Why agree to meet on migration issues only? It is a matter of principle to Cuba. We have always advocated dialogue, discussion, and analysis of pertinent problems between our two nations and rational solutions to them. We never stopped reiterating that the true solution, the only way of definitely solving this issue, lies in lifting the U.S. economic blockade.

We did not dismiss the possibility that a reasonable and acceptable accord could be reached without them lifting the blockade. This accord shows that this is true. I participated in both rounds of negotiations—in 1984 and 1994—and believe that this accord is more significant than the 1984 accord because of what I explained earlier: This is the first time that the United States has pledged to take effective measures against the hijacking of ships or planes and to act accordingly, preventing these types of incidents. In 35 years, they have never signed an accord like that with us.

Regarding purely migratory issues, which they have used as a destabilizing weapon to create domestic unrest, this is the first time they have agreed to a minimum number per year. In addition, within a year after the signing of the accord, they will process visas for all those who have qualified yet have been waiting for years and would have had to wait even longer. All this was done on the basis of a new U.S. policy which puts an end to the privileged situation which Cubans had and which granted them automatic entry into the United States. These were the roots, the basis of the use of immigration as a tool of destabilization and meddling in our affairs in an effort to undermine the Revolution and create domestic unrest.

Although this does not solve all the problems between both nations—which would have to start with the lifting of the blockade to normalize relations between the countries—I believe that it establishes a foundation on which to build normal relations on migration issues. It is one aspect of relations between the nations. Thus, although the blockade remains in place and although

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they refused to even discuss it, no one can dismiss the fact that one aspect of the ties between both nations is that, beginning today, we have an accord to maintain normal relations. They will even take measures to correct past practices, including those that they implemented only a few weeks ago. They have pledged to stop these practices from this point on. These changes are significant.

On the other hand, the blockade issue is complex and complicated. Some insist that it remain in place. However, I can say that right now there is a growing movement in the United States—expressed in the majority of the most influential media and by numerous leaders of both political parties, the Senate, the House, and important U.S. figures—calling for the blockade to be lifted, for a change in U.S. policy, and for the Clinton administration to sit down and seriously discuss all pending problems between the two nations—not just migration issues—on an equal footing. The fact that we managed to reach a fully acceptable accord within this context—which does not hurt the United States in the least and benefits our country and many Cubans—will help strengthen and nurture the movement questioning the blockade.

This has proved that Cuba and the United States can negotiate on an equal footing and reach mutually satisfactory agreements. This is also a significant accomplishment in terms of our broad struggle to lift the blockade, a struggle which we will never relinquish. We must see this as a contribution to that broad struggle, although the U.S. Government continues not to discuss this issue. The day will come when the calls to lift the blockade will be so great that it will make it harder and harder to avoid the issue.

[Cavada] Thank you, very much. We truly appreciate this gesture toward our listeners. Our congratulations on your success in New York. We await your return to Havana. Thank you.

Alarcon Holds News Conference

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[News conference by Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban National Assembly and head of the Cuban delegation to the Cuban-U.S. talks, via satellite from New York City, with the "This Very Day" program host Pedro Martinez Pires and reporter Irma Caseres at the Tele Rebelde studio in Havana—live]

[Text] [Martinez Pires] Greetings, I am here with Irma Caceres. We are live on the "This Very Day" program. I just read the joint communique that the U.S. delegate and you signed. We want to know first—given that you participated in the 1984 negotiations and were now involved in negotiations 10 years later—what are the similarities and differences between these Cuban-U.S. agreements?

[Alarcon] Pedro, first of all, good evening to you and Irma. I think we should thank our friends from ABC Network for their cooperation; we are in their studios. This is a very unique experience. We want the viewers to excuse us for any inconveniences, because it is not [words indistinct] a great effort.

As for your question, I would say that there are important differences between the two agreements. I think that this one—the one we just signed—really goes further. It has much greater scope to achieve the alleged main goal of that agreement we signed in December 1984.

The goal then was to normalize migratory relations between the two countries. We have, however, charged—and I think that this has also been recognized by the North Americans—that that agreement was not completely fulfilled. There is a basic aspect; that of the visas for legal emigration from Cuba to the United States. In 1984, a goal of up to 20,000 visas was established. This was specified in that agreement. In practice, this was not fulfilled. In practice, as it is known, only 5 percent of that total was issued. Throughout the entire period, only little more than half of the expected legal emigration took place each year.

Now, in the agreement we signed on 9 September, no goal was established. A commitment was established: at least 20,000 visas will be issued each year. The U.S. party committed itself to doing so in very categorical terms. It is one thing to say that up to 20,000 visas will be granted and it is another to guarantee that at least 20,000 visas will be granted. In other words, this is a very concrete commitment. We have no doubt that this commitment is consistent with this agreement and that there is a will to fulfill it. This agreement added this provision.

With a recognition that the 1984 agreement had not in fact been fulfilled, it was agreed on this occasion that something special would be added to ensure in the course of this year—the one year period after 9 September, that is, between now and September 1995—that the emigration aspirations of all those who qualify to emigrate and who have been waiting—many of them for many years—will be met.

In other words, there is a recognition for what is called a waiting list in the agreement. Why waiting? Precisely because the 1984 agreement was not being fully implemented. The fulfillment of the 1984 agreement depended a lot on political will, on the actual will of the parties. This agreement contains a much greater, a more concrete, and a specific degree of commitment.

But there are several other things. I believe it is the first time an official document has recognized as an obligation or a mandate something that has been clearly and categorically achieved and that Cuba has wanted for many years. I am referring to the hijacking of airplanes and vessels; in other words, the violent actions to which some people have resorted to illegally migrate to the

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United States. You know perfectly well—and our people know it, too—that for three decades people have hijacked vessels, even kidnapped people in order to arrive in the United States, where they were always welcomed as heroes and automatically admitted.

The agreement we signed today reaffirms what President Clinton announced on 19 August as a radical change in U.S. policy; that is, the discontinuation of the practice of automatically granting entry to the United States, which was what happened for 35 years.

In addition, we agreed on the following: I will read you the second paragraph of the document, which states: Both governments will take effective measures, in every possible way, to oppose and prevent the use of violence by all people who try to arrive or who arrive in the United States from Cuba by hijacking aircraft or ships. I believe this text is very clear. It is an additional pledge which, together with the change in policy they announced on 19 August, is the basis for a modification of what was for several decades an element of a strategy against Cuba, a destabilizing strategy, a strategy that sought to create difficulties for our country. This text goes much further than the agreement we signed in December 1984. That is my quick assessment of the difference.

[Caseres] Companero Alarcon, are these measures you speak of effective immediately, or could they be applied retroactively? I am referring to your mention of these guarantees, this agreement, taking into account that the last paragraph you read about people who have violently hijacked or stolen vessels and who have even committed murder.

[Alarcon] I cannot hear anything. Have I been talking to myself?

[Martinez Pires] Let us repeat, let us repeat.

[Alarcon] How long have I been talking to myself?

[Caseres] He thinks we did not hear him.

[Martinez Pires] We heard him perfectly well; we heard Ricardo Alarcon perfectly well. Can you hear us, Ricardo?

[Alarcon] [Words indistinct]

[Martinez Pires] There seem to be difficulties in the return audio circuit from Havana. Ricardo Alarcon has just made an initial evaluation of the 1994 agreement signed today and the 1984 agreement, in other words, 10 years ago.

[Caseres] One of the most important things I noticed, Martinez, was the guarantee of agreement compliance. The figures and information could make both agreements seem similar, as if it were a reactivated agreement, but it is truly a new agreement...

[Martinez Pires, interrupting] No, but the figures are also different.

[Caseres] No, I mean explicit figures.

[Martinez Pires] No, not in figures either, because the other agreement was up to 20,000.

[Caseres] Yes, up to and now...

[Martinez Pires, interrupting] A minimum of 20,000, which is a significant and important difference because that gave the United States a margin. In fact, Alarcon himself admits that this could have been a certain fault in the 1984 agreement because it left the U.S. counterpart a bit free to grant between one to 19,999 visas. Not now. The minimum now is 20,000 visas per year. In addition...

[Caseres, interrupting] It is not voluntary, it is explicit.

[Martinez Pires] Here we have the case, for example, of people who are on waiting lists—I have seen certain wire services mention approximately 6,000—and there are also the relatives of U.S. citizens, which are in addition to this quota or this figure. Anyway, we trust Ricardo Alarcon can hear us any moment now.

[Caseres] He hears us now.

[Martinez Pires] We have been talking, we have been.... [pauses] We are trying to resolve this technical problem so we do not miss this opportunity for this dialogue with Ricardo Alarcon, this very same day when only two hours have elapsed since the signing. Can Ricardo Alarcon hear us now?

[Alarcon] I can hear you perfectly well, Pedro.

[Martinez Pires] Well, Ricardo Alarcon can hear us now.

[Caseres] This is the issue. Does the agreement signed today establish in any of its paragraphs aspects dealing with theft and the violent manner of emigrating illegally? Will it have a retroactive effect, considering that this month, incidents of this nature have taken place, or will it take effect starting on the date the agreement is signed, namely, today.

[Alarcon] The text of the agreement, and I do not know if we were on the air at that moment, since I, in fact, read that paragraph...

[Caseres, interrupting] Yes, we were on the air.

[Alarcon] It states: the two governments will adopt effective measures in everything within their reach to oppose or prevent the use of violence by any person who is trying to reach or reaches the United States from Cuba by commandeering aircraft or vessels. I understand, and as you see, no dates are given, there are cases that are still, say, hot. I mean, there are cases that have not been settled yet, and U.S. justice has not fully acted with respect to them. Logically, if that is the policy or the commitment that is (?affirmed) in the document, I

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understand the logical thing would be to take action with respect to the cases that are, say, up in the air still.

[Martinez Pires] Alarcon, I feel that it is important nonetheless to recognize the principle —and that is in this document—I mean, Cuba and the United States are in fact rejecting the commandeering of aircraft or vessels, and, therefore, I feel it is important to recognize this principle now. So then,...

[Alarcon, interrupting] It is important, Pedro, and I can tell you because I have been a [word indistinct] witness or leading player. I participated in all the discussions that led to the 1984 agreement. It has always been an aspiration of ours to have, as part of the agreement and the normalization of migration, a clear commitment to take action against the hijacking or commandeering of aircraft, against violence, illegal actions, and the methods they use to make those trips, especially against instances that jeopardize the lives and safety of people who are the victims of those actions. We have never succeeded in getting something like this, and today it is contained in a bilateral agreement. If we combine this to the change in policy, which now eliminates the automatic admission of anyone who reaches that country illegally, it seems to me it entails a major shift in what used to be a systematic procedure for over three decades, something that Cuba tried to change.

[Caseres] We are going to wait for a brief period so that your voice is heard properly. We would like to know something. The agreements do not mention recent measures that affect a large number of people in Cuba from a humanitarian viewpoint, I mean the care packages or the reduction of flights. Was this not discussed? Was it left for a new meeting?

[Alarcon] It was discussed, in accordance with the proposals we insisted on. Until the last moment today, we noted we felt the agreement ... [pauses] that a series of measures the U.S. Administration adopted recently, on 20 August, counter the spirit of this agreement. We felt it was unfair or inadvisable to eliminate flights, cut communications among family members, create obstacles to the reunification of or communication between families, while at the same time we were making serious progress on migration issues in general. Unfortunately, the other side was not in a position to make commitments now on this matter. We have to realize the U.S. Administration has taken these measures very recently, within the framework of this latest, say, crisis situation. Now with this agreement, it is presumed we are heading toward resolving this recent confrontation or crisis.

We hope and trust that those measures are rescinded or eliminated in a rather brief period of time. In addition, there is a fundamental reason. These measures affect a sizable portion of the Cuban American community living in Florida. I can tell you that one is sensing the protests, and people are complaining. That is logical. This is seriously harming or impairing wishes that are, in sum, very respectable. If one hopes to have a normalization in the migration policies of the two countries, one has to eliminate everything that hampers or blocks the normal communication betweem individuals.

[Martinez Pires] Alarcon, today I have read some analysis by some U.S. experts who feel that the fact that this agreement was signed and that the next meeting between Cuba and the United States to monitor the results of the agreement has already been announced is in fact setting a precedent or starting a process that may lead to a better understanding between the two countries. What is your opinion?

[Alarcon] I would say the following. All the major print media, a large number of television and radio commentators, and a large number of distinguished senators and congressmen are saying the same thing. They are coming out against the blockade and, at least, in favor of a profound revision of the policy toward Cuba. They are coming out in favor of dialogue and negotiation between the two countries. The voices opposing it are fewer and not as strong. I think this agreement should contribute to convince other persons it is possible to hold discussions in an honorable manner, under conditions of equality, mutual respect, seriousness—as was done in these meetings in New York—and reach mutually satisfactory agreements.

I believe the fact that we have been able to reach an agreement in this context must undoubtedly serve as a demonstration and as an incentive to those who say this is all elementary, logical after all. It is ripe and ready, as we Cubans say. We must promote and seek a solution to an abnormal situation between two neighboring countries, and, of course, as many people in this country say, the solution requires the suspension of a certain policy. As President Clinton himself said, the United States is isolated in its blockade policy toward Cuba.

[Caseres] Companero Alarcon, in light of this agreement, what will happen with the situation....[pauses] I am going to repeat the question because I see that you are thinking.

[Alarcon] [Words indistinct]

[Caseres] Good.

[Alarcon] In light of this agreement...

[Caseres, interrupts] In light of this agreement, what is going to happen to the people who are already at Guantanamo and who refuse to return. What will happen to them?

[Alarcon] I believe the U.S. authorities have been categorical and have reiterated it in this agreement. The attorney general and assistant secretary of state have reiterated it when they addressed the media. They have categorically stated that these people will not have any possibility of emigrating from the places where they are now, such as Guantanamo Naval Base or Panama. It is a position some have questioned. Some people believe

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they should be allowed to emigrate. These people are not entirely convinced that this is the fairest solution. But I believe it is an understandable position. It is understandable because the United States is trying to discourage, to frustrate these attempts to reach U.S. territory illegally. I believe that to the degree that progress is made in applying this agreement, the problems of these and other people interested in emigrating will continue to be resolved. The main point was to put an end to some people's simplistic idea that Cuba had to resolve this problem by itself. Our position was very clear: We did not create the problem. The problem was clearly and historically created by the United States. I am not referring to this administration, but to the 30-year policy.

A solution may be found to the degree that both sides cooperate in finding a joint agreement. On one hand, they must honor their word, which they failed to do 10 years ago regarding the granting of normal visas to people who meet the conditions for emigrating to the United States legally. On the other hand, they must end the impunity with which they respond to the violence and kidnappings that were committed for many years. These crimes went unpunished, let us say. They must also abandon the practice of receiving anyone. In other words, they were promoting illegal immigration for many years. Cuba only did something that had been announced for many years, which was to stop obstructing those who wanted to leave the country and to stop protecting U.S. borders. If they do not protect their own borders, their neighbor does not have to do it. A change has taken place now in the way the United States is dealing with this problem.

As a result of this change, certain conditions based on rational, humane principles—because it is a matter that involves the two countries, one country cannot solve it by itself, let alone the country that did not create the problem—may be created that can make this an increasingly rational, humane, and normal thing. For the time being, I would say, I would frankly say that I do see any possibility that the United States would be willing to change its attitude regarding the people who decided to disobey the clear and reiterated U.S. decision not to admit them and who still decided to make the trip and are now being detained somewhere. The United States does not want to encourage others to do the same.

The U.S. attitude is understandable. It is perfectly consistent with the decision made by President Clinton on 19 August and will caution people. I believe that what is most important right now is for people to understand that we are living in a new situation, that there have been important changes in the U.S. position, and that those who want to immigrate to the United States because they have relatives over there, because they have valid reasons, and so on must follow specific procedures. According to what the Americans have clearly confirmed, it will no longer be as it was before. Perhaps, as the situation returns to normal and trips are made in a regular and legal manner, the United States will be able to look at the cases of the people who are in Guantanamo and other places in another light. However, at this time, it is clear that their decision, their policy is that they will not process those people or place them on a list to enter the United States. This has been reaffirmed and reiterated on more than one occasion, at the time of signing the agreement and afterward too.

[Martinez Pires] Alarcon, do you recognize changes in the U.S. immigration policy? Is it possible that the changes in the U.S. policy will contribute in any way or at least that they will not negatively affect the Cuban project to normalize relations between the Cuban nation and its emigrants?

[Alarcon] I believe the situation is very interesting. In this respect, I have perceived changes that I believe are headed in the right direction. They will treat Cuba as they treat the rest of the countries with regard to migration issues, taking into account the immediacy and the flexibility they will require to resolve certain cases, such as the one of the people on the waiting list in Havana, and so on, which will give a certain leeway to Cubans over others, for example. There are positive changes. That is why, in this light, it is so contradictory for this administration to have taken the 20 August measures that are totally contrary and go against the legitimate interests, the human aspirations of thousands of U.S. citizens or legal U.S. residents of Cuban origin and their relatives in Cuba.

It is also contradictory that this more liberal administration, this administration that expresses greater concern for the interests of the common people, their problems, the social issues, and has also been capable of rectifying elements in its policy regarding Cuba, would have taken measures such as the suspension of trips and the very strong restrictions in sending parcels to relatives in Cuba, which were not implemented by the Reagan or Bush administrations. I mean, it would seem that there is a sort of national consensus, accepted by both U.S. parties, to block communications among the Cubans. However, I feel there is a price to be paid for this. This is going to create ill-feeling, contradictions, and problems with those Cubans.

It has been said by many people and, apparently, it seems to be true, that the drastic measures to negatively affect Cuba are having their effects on Cuba, it is true, but they are also negatively affecting thousands of Cuban Americans. That is to say, by causing damage to Cuba, the interests of those people are also damaged. This corresponds with the wishes and desires of the Miami right-wing mafia. It seems to me that now, [chuckles] the problems of that mafia will start to grow. You know they are responsible for the fact that some people cannot contact their relatives, cannot receive their visits or visit them, or cannot have normal relations of giving family assistance, as is done by all the people in the United States. In that country, there are people from all parts of

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the world who have contacts with their country of origin, with their relatives, with their descendants, and who do not encounter any kind of restrictions in doing so. I am sure the U.S. Treasury Department does not know when a U.S. citizen of Dominican Republic origin travels to Santo Domingo, when he is visited by one of his relatives, or if he sends or does not send assistance to them. It is a well-known fact that there are several Latin American countries whose main foreign exchange income is the stipends sent by their relatives who live in the United States. The Cuban-Americans are the only ones who have restrictions, strict regulations, and controls. There is a bureaucratic mechanism solely for this purpose in this country. Now, it will be more [words indistinct] control and regulations that eliminate those possibilities.

Frankly, I doubt very much that those restrictions will be able to resist the trial of time and the natural resistance by all the people who are negatively affected. It could be understood that the measures were taken at a low point in the situation, which has been overcome with this agreement. We have to trust and expect that now, after this agreement has been reached, that those measures will be corrected. I can also understand why they have not wanted to include this in the agreement. They have not agreed to include it in the agreement because, after all, it was a unilateral decision, made only by the U.S. Government, and I understand that it would not seem right for them to have it appear in a text negotiated with the Cuban Government. I don't want to go further. I really want to trust that those measures will be abandoned as soon as possible. Especially because I believe it would improve the atmosphere among Cubans in Florida.

On our part, as you know, amid this crisis we have reaffirmed and reiterated our willingness to continue on this path and build bases for normal, logical communication between Cubans who live abroad and their fatherland: Cuba. We have made advances and will continue on this path. I even believe the prospects for renewing and strengthening ties between Cuba and Cubans abroad are more promising precisely because there is a new outlook on migration. Those prospects will be even more promising if they don't try to continue using restrictions—as has been done for 30 years—as instruments against Cuba and if they treat Cuba like any other country on the planet.

[Caseres] Comrade Alarcon, our conversation has been so pleasant that time has just flown by. Since we only have four more minutes, I would like you to answer, even if very briefly, two questions. First, Cuba has said repeatedly that the United States makes numerous radio broadcasts to Cuba which have led to this situation. The U.S. Government has today assessed this agreement as positive. What is your opinion?

[Alarcon] U.S. radio broadcasts to Cuba have truly promoted subversion, sabotage, terrorism, illegal departures, and other actions for many years. Regarding illegal departures, these broadcasts have recently taken a new turn, and as far as I know, they are logically following instructions by the U.S. Government to discourage these actions. At any rate, these broadcasts are a violation of international law. No country should invade another country's radio space, much less with the purpose of undermining its neighbor's sovereignty and independence.

U.S. authorities have assessed the agreement as positive. We did not meet, but we were invited to a television program a while ago at the State Department building there [word indistinct] in New York. I did not agree with everything he said, but we did agree fully on the agreement's assessment. I believe this is a positive agreement, and it constitutes a very significant step within the context of the current abnormal situation between Cuba and the United States. Even if the blockade remains in effect and a hostile policy prevails against Cuba, the truth is that as of tonight, the United States and Cuba have reached normalcy in one aspect of U.S.- Cuban relations. It is as if we had taken an aspect of this hostile and illegal policy and assessed it in the appropriate context. We have also proved something else: We can discuss issues on an equal, respectful, and serious basis. Under such conditions, we have proved that Cubans and North Americans can reach agreements.

Another significant point is that Miami's counterrevolutionary mafia, which has long made a living out of this business of counterrevolution, is running amok because it cannot stand the idea that the U.S. Government has sat down with us at the negotiating table rather than launching a war or taking more extreme measures against Cuba. Even if these illegal departures constitute only a small aspect of our relations, the United States believes it can currently hold talks with Cuba, and that shows we are a stable government—a government that is not facing a crisis and which must be dealt with in a respectful, considerate way, just like any other sovereign country in the world.

[Martinez Pires] Thank you very much, Mr. Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the Cuban National Assembly and head of the delegation that since early August has negotiated with the U.S. delegation this significant agreement on migration issues. Thank you very much for being with us live from New York on the "This Very Day" program. Thanks also to Irma Caseres for being here with me. Cubavision will retransmit this live interview following the soap opera.

Alarcon Assesses Results of Talks

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[Interview with Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban National Assembly and head of the Cuban delegation to the Cuban-U.S. talks, by Roberto Molina; place and date not given]

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[Text] United Nations, 10 Sep (PL)—Ricardo Alarcon says the immigration agreement recently signed by Cuba and the United States is satisfactory and proves that Cubans and North Americans can negotiate seriously and achieve results based on equality and respect for sovereignty and independence.

During a interview for PRENSA LATINA shortly after concluding eight days of talks with U.S. negotiators, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government (parliament) and head of his country's delegation agreed to assess the specific results of the talks.

[PRENSA LATINA] Why do you consider the agreement satisfactory?

[Alarcon] I believe it covers some important issues. Regarding the efforts to illegally migrate to the United States, the U.S. side has reiterated clearly and categorically its recent decision to bar the entry of people who arrive in the United States or who are attempting to arrive without following normal immigration procedures.

Moreover, the United States reaffirmed its decision to end the practice implemented since 1 January 1959 of automatically welcoming anyone from Cuba who reaches U.S. territory through illegal or abnormal means.

Cuba, on the other hand, has pledged to adopt effective measures, to the extent that it is capable of doing so, to prevent unsafe departures. It will primarily use persuasive methods; in other words, it will not employ force or violence.

One thing is obvious: There has been a radical change in U.S. policy that renders these actions senseless because they will not be allowed to enter.

Another very important issue is both sides' pledge to oppose or prevent the use of violence in attempting to reach or enter the United States from Cuba by hijacking airplanes or vessels.

It is the first time the U.S. Government has pledged to do this, which was one of the gaps, one of the issues missing from previous agreements. Never before have we obtained such a pledge from the United States.

There are two important changes in Washington's policy on immigration issues: ending automatic entry of any Cuban who arrives in the United States, including those who kill or kidnap people, and vowing to take effective measures against those who hijack aircraft or vessels.

There is a third aspect that involves an important commitment in normal immigration matters. The agreement signed in 1984 established that the United States would grant up to 20,000 visas per year. It was a ceiling or maximum limit that, in practice, was never complied with, not even by 5 percent. Now they say they will grant at least 20,000 visas per year.

From 1984 to date, the United States has granted barely 50 percent of what they were supposed to grant in a single year.

Now it is not a theoretical goal, it is a starting point to which they are bound.

In addition, they agreed to give visas to all those people with rights and opportunities to travel legally whose names appear on the waiting list. Such visas will be granted within a year, beginning from the date on which the present agreement was signed.

There are people in Cuba who have had all their paperwork completed for years and who have a relative in the United States who has been asking for them, but because of U.S. bureaucracy, or because of the precedence they were given, or whatever, they have spent years waiting to reach their goal.

In practice, as President Fidel Castro explained on Cuban television, Washington's policy was to create difficulties for legal immigration while encouraging illegal immigration as a way to destabilize Cuba and create internal problems. As a result of this, there were thousands of people waiting for visas who did not receive just because they wanted to cause us discomfort.

The United States promises to process all these people within a year, from September 1994 to September 1995. This is the first time that it has expressed an obligation not for an ideal or potential goal but for a true commitment to deliver that number of visas to normal immigrants.

[PRENSA LATINA] What are the other aspects of the document signed yesterday?

[Alarcon] It also includes the voluntary return of people who left Cuba during this period. It was agreed to analyze this matter through normal diplomatic channels. This means that not everyone who left and who has changed his mind can return automatically. He will have to take a test, as a normal procedure, as was done before.

There is also the subject of the exclusions, which as we know is part of the 1984 agreements. There was a list of people who Cuba agreed could return, but in reality most of them have not returned due to problems in U.S. courts and other situations. It was agreed to continue reviewing that subject in the future.

Those are essentially the main points of the agreement, in addition to the decision to meet again no later than 90 days from now to review compliance with the agreements.

[PRENSA LATINA] Since your arrival in New York, you presented Cuba's flexible position to discuss with the United States any pertinent problem, including the immigration issue. You did point out, however, the need to discuss the main causes of the problem, which, according to Cuba, are due to the blockade that has

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continued for more than 30 years. How was that position reflected in the negotiations?

[Alarcon] We never made it a prerequisite that the topic of the blockade be discussed in order to sit down to talk about immigration.

We said before, during, and after the negotiations that to find a definitive, lasting, and complete solution to this problem, the principal cause should be studied and eliminated, which is the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba.

In fact, many of the people who have left Cuba over the past weeks said they were leaving because of the material difficulties and circumstances they were enduring because of the U.S. blockade.

That has been our position and our conviction. At the same time, we agreed to meet with them to discuss the immigration issue, knowing beforehand and during the negotiations that the U.S. side did not even want to mention the topic.

Why did we agree to meet with them to discuss at least the immigration issue? It is a matter of principle for our country. We have always been in favor of dialogue, discussion, and analysis of the pertinent problems between the two countries and in favor of seeking reasonable solutions.

Just as we acted with total frankness, we will not stop reiterating that the true solution, the only way to definitively resolve the question, is to eliminate the blockade imposed by Washington.

Now, we did not give up and did not dismiss the possibility that, although they had not lifted the blockade, we might be able to reach a reasonable, acceptable agreement, which I believe this one is.

I also believe—I participated in both negotiations; I signed the agreement in 1984 and participated in the talks and signed the agreement in 1994—that this agreement is a substantial improvement over the previous one because it is the first time the United States has committed itself to taking effective actions against the hijacking of aircraft or vessels and to act consistently to prevent such things from happening.

In 35 years they had never signed such an agreement with us.

Regarding the purely migratory issue, which has been used as a destabilization weapon to create difficulties and internal problems in our country, they are committing themselves for the first time to granting a minimum number of visas, which they will have to grant at least annually.

In addition, there is the commitment that within one year they will also process those people who meet the requirements who have had to wait years and perhaps would have had to wait even longer to travel had this agreement not been signed.

All of this is on the basis of the U.S. reiteration of a new policy to end the privileges accorded Cubans for some time whereby anyone who arrived in this country was automatically admitted.

Those were the roots, the basis for the use of the migration issue as an instrument of destabilization and interference to try to undermine the revolution and to create internal problems.

In other words, although this may not resolve all the problems between our two countries—in order for that to be done, the blockade would have to be lifted—I do think that the groundwork has been established for normal relations in migration issues, one aspect of ties between the two countries.

Thus today we can say that although the blockade remains, although the United States does not even want to discuss it, nobody is oblivious to the fact that as of today we have a commitment on both sides to maintain normal relations in one aspect of our relations.

On the part of the United States, there is also the decision to adopt some measures that imply correcting methods and practices that were in force up to a few weeks ago and which they will cease to implement as of now. These changes cannot be overlooked.

The topic of the blockade is a complex, complicated one. There are forces intent upon maintaining it.

We must also realize that there is a growing feeling in the United States, echoed by a large majority of this country's newspapers and publications, that the blockade should be ended. Many leaders of both political parties, Senate and House leaders, and other prominent people are calling for the blockade to be lifted and for a change in policy toward Cuba. They are urging President (William) Clinton to sit down on equal terms to seriously discuss issues between the two countries which go beyond migration matters.

The fact that we have been able to reach a fully acceptable migration agreement that does not harm us in the least and which benefits our country and many Cubans will contribute to developing and strengthening the debate over the blockade.

Among other things, this has demonstrated that Cuba and the United States are capable of negotiating on equal terms and of reaching agreements that both sides find satisfactory.

We must look at this process from that perspective and within that framework. I think this is an important achievement in our struggle to lift the blockade, which of course we must never give up. We must see this as a general contribution to that struggle, even though the

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United States—the official side, the U.S. Administration—continues to refuse to approach such discussions.

I believe that one day this will become a generalized demand expressed by many people. It will make it more and more difficult for them to ignore this essential debate between the two countries.

[PRENSA LATINA] How do you see the restrictions announced by Clinton on 20 August within the context of this new migration agreement?

[Alarcon] We stressed this issue right up to the very last minute of the talks. It seems inconsistent and even contradictory to uphold these recent measures, which are directed at cutting off family communication, creating obstacles to family reunions, and hampering relations between people in general while there has been such serious progress in migration issues.

It is contradictory for this administration, which professes such concern for the people, their problems, and social issues, and which has even been capable of rectifying its policy toward Cuba, to have taken measures that neither (Ronald) Reagan or (George) Bush did to hamper communication among Cubans.

The measures purport to affect Cuba when in fact they go beyond to injure the interests of the people.

These measures are in keeping with the intentions of the anti-Cuban, ultrarightist mafia in Miami to prevent normal relations between Cuban families.

Normal relations are something all people living in the United States have with their country of origin without restrictions.

I bet the Treasury Department does not know when a U.S. citizen of Dominican origin is traveling to Santo Domingo or how much money he sends his relatives. It is well-known that some Latin American countries rely on remittances sent by nationals living in the United States as their main source of revenue.

For Cubans, however, there are regulations. There is a bureaucratic apparatus devoted to this purpose in this country.

It became obvious that the U.S. side was not currently in a position to make commitments, but with this agreement, we are supposedly heading to the solution of these problems. We hope that those measures will be reevaluated to be eliminated in the short term because important interests are being seriously harmed.

If we expect to achieve normalcy in migration relations between the two countries, all obstacles to this goal must be eliminated.

I believe it is also understandable that they did not agree to include these measures in this agreement because, after all, they were based a unilateral decision made by Clinton. Therefore, I can understand why they did not deem it wise to include them in a text negotiated with the Cuban Government.

But we should hope that, following this agreement, these measures will be corrected.

[PRENSA LATINA] Within the framework of the current agreement, what is your assessment of the situation of those Cubans confined to the U.S. naval bases in Guantanamo and Panama, as well as in southern Florida?

[Alarcon] The U.S. authorities—as Attorney General Janet Reno and Under Secretary Peter Tarnoff have reiterated—have stated that those people have no chance of being processed to emigrate to the United States.

Some people are not very convinced that this is a fair solution, but I believe it is a logical position because the U.S. side is trying to discourage more illegal arrivals in its territory.

The main thing was to get them to forget the idea that this was a problem to be resolved by Cuba. Our position was quite clear because we did not create this situation. It is clear and can be demonstrated historically that it stems from the U.S. side, not this administration, but because of a policy and practice carried out for three decades. It can be solved only to the extent that both parties engage in joint cooperation.

On the one hand, they should fulfill what they failed to do for 10 years, which was to grant visas to whoever was in a position to emigrate legally to the United States.

Also, they must end the impunity with which violence, hijacking, and other acts were treated for over 30 years. There are even recent cases pending trial in U.S. courts. They must also abandon the practice of taking anyone in.

In other words, the United States promoted illegal emigration for over 30 years, so Cuba was obliged to do something it had announced a long time ago; that is, not to block departures and to stop guarding U.S. borders. If they did not guard them, there was no reason why their neighbor should do so.

Now there has been a change in the way the United States is addressing this problem. As of this moment there is a reasonable, humane premise to view the matter as something that is the responsibility of both countries. You cannot hold a single party responsible, much less the party that did not create the problem. Conditions can be created to make the process increasingly normal.

For the moment, I don't see any possibility that the United States can change the attitude of people who have ignored the clear and reiterated decision by the United States not to admit them, yet they have taken that step.

The idea is to discourage others from following. It is an attitude consistent with the President Clinton's decision on 19 August, and it is a warning to the people.

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There have been changes in the U.S. position, and those who wish to emigrate or who have valid reasons to emigrate must follow legal procedures. It will not be as in the past, according to what the United States has announced.

As the situation normalizes and as migration flows take place normally and legally, the U.S. side might be able to assess the situation of the people staying at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo and other places from a new perspective.

It is obvious that for the time being, however, their decision and their policy, which has been reaffirmed and reiterated several times—both during and after the signing of the agreement—is not to process these people to enter the United States.

[PRENSA LATINA] I only ask you this question out of curiosity. Why was New York chosen to host these talks instead of Washington or any other city?

[Alarcon] Actually, many of the previous meetings dealing with the migration issue were held in New York. As a matter of fact, the 1984 agreement was signed here.

In the beginning, there were many discussions between the two countries to decide where to hold the talks. Their argument in favor of holding the talks in New York was that it is not the capital of the United States, and we were not going to be in either Havana or Washington. New York is a U.S. city, but in a sense, it is an international symbol, the headquarters of the United Nations.

That is why we agreed to hold the talks here 10 years ago, and it became a tradition. The 1984 agreement was signed and all previous meetings were held in New York.

[PRENSA LATINA] How do you assess the attitude and conduct of the U.S. negotiators?

[Alarcon] I would say that the conditions for the negotiations were very professional, serious, and respectful. Despite any disagreements regarding the significant issues being discussed, it cannot be denied that a climate of openness prevailed the entire time.

I believe they had a true, enormous interest in reaching an agreement, and the team of negotiators obviously kept in constant communication with their superiors at the State and Justice Departments in Washington.

The attorney general and the under secretary—who were in charge of all the talks—were obviously kept abreast of every step taken during the negotiations. They are the ones who announced the agreement.

In other words, the heads of the U.S. Government followed this dialogue closely, something for which they had the advantage because they were in their own country. This facilitated the flow of communication for following the talks.

Clinton, Tarnoff, Alarcon Cited

FL1009145294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 10 Sep 94

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, head of the Cuban delegation to the talks on migratory issues, stated that the most important part of the agreement signed yesterday between Cuba and Washington is the White House's commitment not to encourage illegal departures of Cubans toward the coasts of Florida. In an interview, broadcast on the PBS network, Alarcon, who is also president of the National Assembly of the People's Government and former foreign minister, pointed out that in past few days President William Clinton announced that his government would not accept the illegal emigration [as heard] of Cubans.

At the same time, Peter Tarnoff, under secretary of state for inter-American affairs [title as heard], who headed the U.S. delegation to the negotiations in New York [as heard], told the same U.S. network that the Cuban rafters who are currently at Guantanamo will remain in that military enclave indefinitely. Tarnoff also stated that the recently signed agreement on migratory issues between Cuba and the United States does not represent a change in Washington's blockade policy toward Havana.

Meanwhile, President Clinton stated that he is satisfied with the document through which the governments of the two nations express their common interest in impeding the illegal departure of Cubans en route to the United States and announce various measures to discourage this emigration.

GRANMA Terms Agreement 'Positive'

PA1009141994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0901 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 10 Sep (PL)— The Cuban newspaper GRANMA states today the recent agreement between Cuba and the United States is "positive" and was reached "thanks to the political will of the two governments."

The newspaper, the official mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Cuba, states in an editorial that the fact such an agreement was reached "opens a path for new meetings" and "indicates there are possibilities for a dialogue between the two nations despite our ancestral differences."

GRANMA adds the agreement also indicates it is not prohibited "to sit around the same table to discuss topics of limited scope, as was the essence of this opportunity," but, rather, "to broach broader topics of common interest."

"To have been willing to talk was to overcome the first obstacle," the daily states, adding "maintaining contact,

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regardless of differing viewpoints, which had darkened the horizon many times, was always a good indication" that an agreement could be reached.

In another part of the editorial, GRANMA states, however, "there are crucial discrepancies in the crux of the Cuban-U.S. problem;" therefore, to have thought the agreement was going to be different "would have been to harbor vain illusions."

It states Cuba did not subject the negotiations to the U.S. blockade although it considers "it is the main reason for the current conflict."

It recalls that most nations represented at the United Nations and prominent world figures, as well as influential U.S. politicians, media, and institutions, oppose the blockade.

In conclusion, it states the agreements reached between the two countries "will be strictly fulfilled by Cuba."

Newscast Reviews Accord

PA1009152294 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Sep 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The governments of the United States and Cuba have agreed in New York to normalize immigration procedures in a secure, legal, and orderly manner. This agreement includes the granting of a minimum of 20,000 visas per year to Cubans who want to travel to the United States. In addition, Cuba will adopt persuasive measures to prevent unsafe departures from the island.

A joint communique released in New York at the end of a week of negotiations states that the United States will not permit the entry of illegal Cuban immigrants rescued on the high seas and notes that they will be taken to refugee installations outside the United States.

Furthermore, the United States will discontinue the temporary admission of all immigrants who illegally arrive in that country.

The two governments have adopted effective measures to oppose and prevent the use of violence by any individual trying to reach the United States from Cuba by hijacking aircraft or ships.

As an additional and special measure, the United States will provide within a year documents for qualified Cubans who live on the island and are on the waiting list for immigrant visas.

The two sides have agreed they will arrange through diplomatic means the voluntary return of Cubans who arrived in the United States or refuge installations outside the United States after 19 August. In addition, they have agreed to continue discussions on the return of Cuban citizens who may be excluded from the United States.

The representatives of the United States and Cuba have agreed to meet within 45 days to assess the implementation of that which was expressed in the joint communique, which was signed by Ricardo Alarcon, leader of the Cuban delegation, and Michael Skol, who headed the U.S. delegation.

Alarcon has said the two parties demonstrated the capability to reach agreements and establish a normal relation in the area of bilateral relations.

Alarcon has said the joint communique signed in New York is a great step within the context of the abnormal situation existing between Havana and Washington.

In remarks to Cuban television, he has said the agreement is positive for Cuba, because it reaches farther than the immigration agreement signed with the administration of Ronald Reagan in 1984 that was not fully implemented.

In this regard, he has said that saying up to 20,000 visas will be granted is not the same as guaranteeing a minimum of 20,000 visas will be granted.

Furthermore, the U.S. Government has clearly and categorically established the additional commitment to reject the hijacking of aircraft and ships by Cubans interested in migrating.

Alarcon has said this agreement should help convince other people it is possible to hold discussions in an honorable way and under conditions of equality, mutual respect, and seriousness, as well as to reach mutually satisfactory agreements.

Robaina Reacts to Accord

LD1009102694 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 0700 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Within the last few hours Cuba has begun to apply the agreement on emigration which it reached with the United States yesterday evening, following several days of negotiations. [passage omitted]

The first official reactions from Fidel Castro's government to the agreement reached by the two governments yesterday evening have been heard, and these reactions have appeared in Spain, where the visit by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina is continuing. In the early hours of this morning the Cuban foreign minister said that, although the agreement is important, the most salient point is not the numbers but the need to negotiate the lifting of the economic blockade to which his country is subjected by the United States, something which, so Bill Clinton has said, they are not at present intending to negotiate, at least not until changes are perceived in Fidel Castro's policies. Robaina arrived at Barajas Airport in the early hours of this morning. Our colleague Hector Arenas spoke with him. Good morning.

[Begin Arenas recording] In a first reaction from a senior Cuban Government representative, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, on his arrival in Madrid from the

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Canaries in the early hours of this morning, tried to evade giving a first political assessment of the New York agreement on emigration between the United States and Cuba, saying that we still have to hear and discuss the agreement as a whole, and playing down the importance of the number of visas agreed.

[Robaina] Our fundamental problem is not one of figures. We must hear and discuss the agreement as a whole, and at eight o'clock [not further specified] both sides agreed to make the official announcement.

[Arenas] The Cuban foreign minister, who initially attempted to evade the press, was asked about the agreed solution formula for the rafters to leave the Guantanamo base. He replied that there is no problem. This has been made sufficiently clear, he said. However, with regard to finding an agreement on the enduring dispute around the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba, Robaina said that this is a long-standing problem which cannot be resolved in 24 hours, but whose resolution is still awaited.

[Robaina] It is such a long-standing problem that it is not going to be resolved in 24 hours. It will always be a problem which will remain outstanding for the Cuban people until it is finally resolved. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Robaina on Accord, Blockade, Economy

LD1209111994 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 0600 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] Let's go straight to the latest events affecting your country: The agreement you have reached with the United States for the granting of those 20,000 visas a year in exchange for stopping the rafts. Do you think this could be a start to a solution to the crisis?

[Robaina] Yes, I think so. The agreement is an important factor in a certain normalization of relations on such a complicated matter. I believe that with the type of situation which arose it was necessary for understanding and communication on both sides. We had to get to the bottom of the problem, to seek a legal, deep-rooted and long-term solution. I think that this is an important aspect which has allowed both sides to sit at a table and find a solution.

[Announcer] Are other negotiations with the United States going to continue aimed at lifting the more than 30-year-old blockade on trade relations?

[Robaina] Cuba's position on the blockade has not changed, nor will it change. Whether the talks continue depends not only on what the Cubans decide, it depends on what both sides find. I think that for future communication and for future negotiations it is necessary, above all, for the present progress to continue—by which we get to know each other better—and then other stages will be reached. In the first meeting the blockade was not on the agenda. However, this does not rule out the fact that for the Cuban side on each and every occasion when negotiatons take place we will continue to touch on the subject because it affects us.

[Announcer] Spain is going to continue in its role of mediator. Do you think it would be a good idea for Spain to intervene in these negotiations?

[Robaina] If something has been made clear with these talks it is that the United States and Cuba can sit down without anybody playing the role of absolute mediator. However, I think that what is never too much is to ask the Cubans how they feel about the blockade, and it is also important for the United States to be asked—repeatedly--what it thinks about the blockade on Cuba. What we have said to Spain and to other countries is that it is important to talk to Cuba, to know what is going on. It is also important to talk to the United States.

[Announcer] After the talks you held with the different members of the Cuban opposition here in Madrid last week, are you going to continue these talks in other places, with other political reresentatives?

[Robaina] It is not a matter of timetables, countries, and (?elites). Cuba started on a path in this direction some time ago, but it was given a boost by a conference held recently in Havana which, on that occasion, was not broad enough. I think that exclusions are never our responsibility. In my opinion exclusions have occurred because of those who, with their statements, have not left room for talks. Here we have taken an important step because there are people who are independents, who differ ideologically, and this does not concern us in these talks between Cuba and its emigres, but who maintain a position of respect and understanding, and above all condemn this very brutal blockade imposed on Cuba. These talks could take place here. They did take place here, with that broadness, and they will continue in Havana, Madrid, New York, anywhere, as long as the climate in which we meet continues to be the same.

[Announcer] How far are you prepared to go in opening up the regime as you are being called on to do from different points?

[Robaina] For us, opening up means adapting to new times, times which have substantially changed the conditions in which we defended a plan, which we continue to defend. What we want to do is to defend it in present circumstances, but the limits are clear to the Cuban people. For the Cuban people the limits mean being able to reach a certain goal without putting at risk what is sacred for us. And what is sacred for us is independence, sovereignty, and our own voice.

[Announcer] And a change to democracy as understood by the West—is this possible maintaining the political system, the same regime?

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[Robaina] I think that there have to be more talks and greater mutual understanding because what is very difficult to understand is why a world, which it is said should be a plural world, can only come about with a change to an exact model of western democracy and that a strict, one-type, democratic model for all is wanted. I believe that in the name of democracy many things are done in this world. However, there are other models, which do not have very different characteristics from us, but they are plural and the model we apply is not plural. I think, in short, that what is necessary for Havana, for Madrid, is for the yardstick either perhaps to be the same for all or if we are going to use different yardsticks then let us also talk about the countries which have other opinions.

[Announcer] What happens is that democracy is possibly measured by that aspect, by that magnifying glass, of public and civil freedoms in general, freedom of association, meeting, expression, etc.

[Robaina] Exactly. It is always measured a lot but each time it is measured a lot what is frequently not taken into account is that many of those who are being measured have to build their democratic models and reach solutions under pressure and threats, and not only the economic ones under which my country operates. I think that Cuba has even witnessed, welcomed, congratulates, sees, wants models. Latin America, for example, has had hundreds of models living together which in short do not stop having defects and matters to be resolved. But no country in Latin America has had to face the brutal pressure that my country has to continue experiencing and working under. Before changing, tomorrow my country has to think about survival and after guaranteeing its survival it has to continue changing.

[Announcer] A final question on this matter. Let's talk about the economy now, but I have to ask you this question first. Can this change that you suggest take place with Fidel Castro at the helm?

[Robaina] The Cubans are absolutely convinced about this change, and I say the Cubans because change is up to the Cubans. Fidel is part of a plan which has been defended with all its virtues and defects. In short we do not wish to renounce the virtues. To attain these virtues we feel he played his role, and amidst the defects he also fought. We feel that the revolution should not only be wanted but what it has achieved should be seen and what we are still in a position to achieve. In the middle of all this process, even with all the changes that have taken place over the past year, these changes have taken place with him.

[Announcer] Turning to the economy. Cuba is in a serious situation, not only because of the blockade but also because of its own problems. What do you need? What are you asking for now so that contributions can be made to Cuba's economic development? As you said, the first thing is practically the country's survival. What has to be done?

[Robaina] I do not believe—and I am not one who says that it is—that the blockade is the only reason for our problem. I am one of those who say that the blockade is the main reason, but for the past four or five years the country has been facing a blockade as or more brutal than before and throughout this period we have faced a third blockade which instead of being our mistakes, our deficiencies, these mistakes and deficiencies have been brought into the country and do not respond to our culture, tradition, or history. But I believe that the combination of many things has made tackling this economic solution much more difficult. In short, we should be allowed to work better and Cuba has embarked on a process of major economic changes for this. For example, all those who wish to invest on the island should be able to come without the trauma of having to arrive secretly. It means having a level of talks which allows us to not only say what we are doing but allows us to listen to many views on what we are doing. We want to build an economic model which we want above all to be a Cuban model and that is feasible.

[Announcer] Thank you.

Mixed Reactions Among Cuban-Americans

FL1009181494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Sep 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] With regard to the Cuban emigre community in the United States, correspondent Maria Elena Alonso asked her colleague Marcos Castellon about the reaction of that community to the migratory agreement between the two countries.

[Begin Castellon recording] One side believes that these agreements were a victory for the United States because it stops the exodus and because the talks were limited to migratory issues only. There is another side that claims that the victory was for Cuba because they obtained legitimacy and they were able to get the hijackers [as heard] punished, something very important since the agreement has practically put an end to the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966.

There is another group, however, that believes that no one was victorious because the embargo continues, and the suspension of trips and remittances to Cuba remains, and because the rafters were forgotten.

The curious part of this whole thing is that there are extraordinary divisions among those groups which traditionally supported the U.S. policies against Cuba. We have a Cuban-American congresswoman, Ileana Ross, who believes, in a very depressed way, that the path has already been made for the inevitable—and that is the word she used—lifting of the embargo.

On the other hand, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, another Cuban-American congressman, is arrogantly accusing the U.S.

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Government of violating human rights with this agreement. Torricelli, the infamous author of the Cuban Democracy Act, is very happy because no more Cubans are going to be let out of Cuba and his hope is that they stay in Cuba to foment internal conflicts that will overthrow the Cuban Government.

There have been many repercussions. There are also groups that continue pressuring for the lifting of the embargo and the normalization of relations with Cuba. This agreement seems to be putting things in that perspective. [end recording]

Rafters Issue Statement on Accord

PA1109152994 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 11 Sep 94 p 36

[Text of statement issued by the Cuban rafters housed on Camp No. 1 near Howard Air Force Base in Panama; date not given]

[Text] CONCLUSIONS VOTED ON AND DEMOCRATICALLY APPROVED BY THE POLITICAL REFUGEES IN PANAMA

1. We ask to be represented by members of the CUBAN-AMERICAN FOUNDATION headquartered in the United States.

2. We do not approve of the U.S. Government's decision on the refugees housed in Guantanamo and Panama, because we were not even mentioned and because we do not believe in the promises made by the Cuban Government, which has trampled on our people's dignity for 35 years.

3. Our emigration was prompted by political not economic reasons, as the island's government has claimed. Our principles, WHICH WILL NEVER BE NEGOTIABLE as long as Cuba fails to offer political opportunities to the opposition, were not taken into account during the negotiations.

4. We flatly object to the political manipulation by the two governments, because we are not responsible for a crisis that has already lasted 35 years.

5. We are advocating a swift solution, and we are waiting for a positive reply from the U.S. Government.

Regards from the ASSOCIATION OF CUBAN RAFTERS housed at Camp No. 1 in Panama, next to the HOWARD Base, headquarters of the U.S. Southern Command, which we respect and deeply admire for the solidarity with us that it has expressed.

Rafters Oppose Accord, Burn Castro in Effigy

PA1109153294 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Sep 94 p 1A

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Excerpts] The rafters brought to Panama yesterday held a meeting at Camp No. 1 to oppose the immigration agreement signed by Cuba and United States and expressed their annoyance over what they characterized as a violation of their human rights. [passage omitted]

During the meeting held by the rafters at Camp No. 1, an effigy representing Fidel Castro, dressed in a military uniform, was paraded and later destroyed, while the rafters chanted slogans against the Havana Government. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Issues Note to Rafters on Possible Arrests

FL1209001194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Note issued by the Cuban Interior Ministry in Havana on 10 September; from the "NTV" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] Despite the Cuban-U.S. agreement reached on 9 August [month as heard] and the government's exhortation to those attempting to leave by their own means that was published immediately afterward, some irresponsible people transported those means to the coast during the early hours of 10 September.

Therefore, the following measures have been adopted:

As of 0600 [1000 GMT] on 11 September, the transport to the coast of boats, rafts, or any materials used to make rafts with the intention of using them for that purpose is strictly forbidden.

2. [figure as heard] Vehicles used to transport the means and the means themselves will be confiscated. The drivers of these vehicles will be arrested [arrestados] and tried [enjuiciados].

Government Issues Appeal to Citizens

PA1009131894 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0856 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 10 Sep (PL)— The Cuban Government urged citizens interested in traveling to the United States to suspend trips through their own means without following legal procedures.

Following is the text of the message issued by Cuban officials here last night, published in the Saturday edition of the official newspaper GRANMA. The message responds to the immigration agreement signed in New York on Friday with the U.S. Administration.

Exhortation from the Cuban Government to the citizens who are trying to travel abroad by their own means and without following legal procedures, which will be published on 10 September in the GRANMA newspaper.

As you know, an agreement was reached on 9 September with the United States on migratory issues. This agreement reflects the interests of the two countries and establishes commitments for each one of them.

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As a result of this agreement, a minimum of 20,000 visas per year to emigrate to the United States will now be authorized, aside from those that will be granted to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. The agreement specifies that "as an additional and extraordinary measure, the United States will facilitate, within a year, documents to permit the emigration to the United States of those qualified Cuban citizens who are in Cuba and are currently on a waiting list to receive immigrant visas. [no closing quotation mark as received]

It will not necessarily be required to have relatives in the United States to be evaluated for and granted a visa.

Solid principles to regulate emigration norms [normas] were also established. Illegal departures will no longer be encouraged by the United States. Those who arrive at its coasts in that way will not be automatically welcomed, and the use of violence and the hijacking of vessels and aircraft to achieve such goals will not go unpunished. Absurd problems in this area, which had not been solved for more than 35 years, are now being discussed rationally and with respect for the laws of each country.

Obviously, all those who wish to emigrate will not be able to do so. This is not possible in any Third World country, but we have reached a formula to ensure that many will be able to reach this goal in an absolutely legal and secure way.

The Cuban Government, for its part, commits itself, among other things, to take "effective measures within its means to prevent unsafe departures, fundamentally using persuasive methods." This part was drafted by the Cuban party, because we really do not want our authorities to be obliged to use force.

We trust in your understanding and cooperation. We appeal to you with sincere respect and consideration to suspend travel by your own means and without following legal procedures.

Persons or groups of persons who have taken rafts, boats, or other auxiliary means to certain places to leave the country, are given a 72-hour deadline, as of 1200 today, Saturday, 10 September, to pick them up and give them or the material used to this end some useful purpose.

There is no desire to arrest anyone or to confiscate goods or materials.

During the 72-hour deadline, authorities will not take any action against persons or devices [medios] and will only use persuasion with regard to those who insist on leaving. At the end of that term, that is, as of 1200, Tuesday, 13 September, the measures will be different: Departures from the coast will be prevented, even if it is necessary to use force. Devices found near the sea for this purpose will be confiscated.

Persuasive means, however, will always be used as the fundamental method. Force will be used only as an exception, without anything further, except if the agent or authority in fulfillment of his duty is attacked directly with sharp objects, knives, or firearms, which may endanger his life.

We know that there will always be persons incapable of understanding and complying with this appeal. They are the ones who will oblige us to use more stringent measures.

Also, we know that since there are over 3,000 km of coastline, some persons have achieved their goal of going to sea by their own means, traveling illegally. It is necessary, however, to become aware that with this method, they will not truly achieve their goal of residence in the United States—which is the goal of the immense majority who emigrate—because of the measures that are taken and that will surely be taken over there in keeping with the terms established in the agreement.

For its part, the Cuban Government will provide all the facilities to travel legally to all of those who receive visas from that country or any other country of the world. We know that the fundamental causes that compel the massive emigration at this moment are of an economic nature. Hence, we intend to continue to strive tirelessly against the cruel blockade, which is asphyxiating us. In the meantime, we will make every effort within our means to make lessen the harsh conditions we must endure today.

The measures adopted recently by U.S. authorities at the beginning of the crisis, which affected countless families, prohibiting visits, sending of money transfers, and others, which increased hostilities and heightened emigrations, are totally incompatible with the spirit and effort of honest cooperation and good faith implied by the agreement to discourage illegal departures. We hope they will not be maintained much longer.

It is essential for our people in this hard battle we are waging with honor and intelligence, to show the world and U.S. public opinion—where many press media, organizations, and outstanding and influential personalities are openly opposed to the blockade—that we are a serious, disciplined, and dignified peoples who know how to fulfill and honor their commitments.

Of course, all those who want to migrate will not be able to do so; that desire is not possible in any Third World country. We established a method, however, whereby many people can achieve that goal in an absolutely legal and safe manner.

Meanwhile, the Cuban Government has, among other things, pledged to adopt "all the effective measures within its capability to prevent unsafe departures, primarily through persuasive methods." This system was developed by the Cuban side, because we really do not want our authorities to be obligated to use force.

We trust you will understand and cooperate. We urge you with sincere respect and consideration to suspend

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the trips undertaken by your own means without following the legal procedures.

In all the places where certain people or groups have stored rafts, boats, or other alternative means of leaving the country, a 72-hour deadline has been established, beginning at noon today, Saturday, 10 September, for their removal. Those devices or the materials used to make them should be devoted to a useful purpose.

There is no desire to arrest anyone or seize any property or material.

During the established 72-hour deadline, the authorities will not take action against individuals or their devices and will only use persuasion with individuals who still insist on leaving. When the deadline ends or, in other words, as of 1700 GMT on Tuesday, 13 September, the measures implemented will be different: Departures will be prevented from the coast even if the use of force proves necessary, and the devices found near the sea for that purpose will be seized.

Nevertheless, persuasion will always be our basic method. Force will be used only in exceptional cases, without the use of weapons, unless the agent performing his duty is directly attacked with blunt weapons, knives, or guns that might threaten his physical integrity or his life.

We know there will always be people who are incapable of understanding and adhering to this plea. These are the people who will force us to use stronger measures.

We also know that because there are 3,000 km of coastline, certain people will manage to illegally depart by sea through their own means. It is necessary to be aware, however, that it will not be possible to achieve in that manner the objective of obtaining a residence in the United States, which is the objective sought by most of those deciding to emigrate, due to the measures the United States will be forced to adopt, and will surely adopt, in accordance with the terms of the treaty.

The Cuban Government will permit, however, the legal travel of all those who obtain a visa from that country or from any other country.

We know the main causes for the mass immigration at this time are economical. Therefore, we intend to continue struggling tirelessly against the cruel blockade, which is aimed at strangling us. Meanwhile, we will continue doing everything in our power to ease the difficult conditions in which we are forced to live.

The measures adopted recently by U.S. authorities at the beginning of the crisis, which affected numerous families and included the prohibition of visits and the sending of money drafts, are absolutely incompatible with the spirit and efforts of honest cooperation and good faith that should prevail in the agreement to discourage illegal departures, and we hope they will not continue for a long time.

It is absolutely essential in this arduous struggle we are waging with honor and intelligence that our people show the world and the U.S. public, where many media sources, organizations, and prominent and influential personalities are already openly opposing the blockade, that we are a serious, disciplined, and dignified people who will honor their commitments.

Radio Reports Government's Appeal

FL1009124894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1137 GMT 10 Sep 94

["Exhortation" from the Cuban Government to "citizens who are trying to travel abroad by their own means and without following legal procedures," published in GRAMNA on 10 September]

[Text] As you know, an agreement was reached with the United States on migratory issues. This agreement reflects the interests of the two countries and establishes commitments for each of them.

As a result of this agreement, a minimum of 20,000 visas per year to emigrate to the United States will now be authorized, aside from those that will be granted to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. The agreement specifies that, as an additional and extraordinary measure, the United States will facilitate, within a year, documents to permit the emigration to the United States of those qualified Cuban citizens who are in Cuba and are currently on the waiting list for immigrant visas.

It will not necessarily be required to have relatives in the United States to be evaluated for and granted a visa.

Solid principles to regulate emigration standards were also established. Illegal departures will no longer be encouraged by the United States. Those who arrive at its coasts in that manner will not be automatically welcomed, and the use of violence and the hijacking of vessels and aircraft to achieve such goals will not go unpunished. Absurd problems in this area, which had not been solved for more than 35 years, are now being discussed rationally and with respect for the laws of each country.

Obviously, all those who wish to emigrate will not be able to do so. This is not possible in any Third World country. But we have reached a formula to ensure that many will be able to reach this goal in an absolutely legal and secure way.

The Cuban Government, for its part, commits itself, among other things, to take effective measures within its means to prevent unsafe departures, fundamentally using persuasive methods. This part was drafted by the Cuban party, because we really do not want our authorities to be obliged to use force.

We trust in your understanding and cooperation. We appeal to you with sincere respect and consideration to suspend travel by your own means and without following legal procedures.

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Persons or groups of persons who have taken rafts, boats, or other auxiliary means to certain places to leave the country, are given a 72-hour deadline, as of 1600 GMT on Saturday, 10 September, to retrieve them and give them, or the materials used to this end, some useful purpose.

There is no desire to arrest anyone or to confiscate goods or materials.

During the 72-hour deadline, authorities will not take any action against persons or means and will only use persuasion with regard to those who insist on leaving. At the end of that term, that is, as of 1600 GMT on 13 September, the measures will be different: Departures from the coast will be prevented, even if it is necessary to use force. Devices found near the sea for this purpose will be confiscated.

Persuasive means, however, will always be used as the fundamental method. Force will be used only as an exception, without anything further, except if the agent or authority in fulfillment of his duty is attacked directly with sharp objects, knives, or firearms, which may endanger his life. We know that there will always be persons incapable of understanding and complying with this appeal. They are the ones who will oblige us to use more stringent measures.

We also know that since there are over 3,000 km of coastline, some persons may achieve their goal of going to sea by their own means, to travel illegally. It is necessary, however, to become aware that with this method, they will not truly achieve their goal of residence in the United States—which is the goal of the vast majority who emigrate—because of the measures that have been taken and that will surely be taken over there in keeping with the terms established in the agreement.

For its part, the Cuban Government will provide all the facilities to travel legally to all of those who receive visas from that country or any other country of the world. We know that the fundamental causes that compel the massive emigration at this moment are of an economic nature. Hence, we intend to continue to strive tirelessly against the cruel blockade, which is smothering us. In the meantime, we will make every effort within our means to minimize the harsh conditions we must endure today.

The measures adopted recently by U.S. authorities at the beginning of the crisis, which affected countless families, prohibiting visits, the transfer of money, and others, which increased hostilities and heightened emigration, are totally incompatible with the spirit and effort of honest cooperation and good faith implied by the agreement to discourage illegal departures. We hope they will not be maintained much longer.

It is essential for our people in this hard battle we are waging with honor and intelligence, to show the world and U.S. public opinion—where many press media, organizations, and outstanding and influential personalities are openly opposed to the blockade—that we are a serious, disciplined, and dignified people, who know how to fulfill and honor their commitments.

Reiteration of Prohibition on Rafters; Use of Force Possible

PA1109135894 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Sep 94

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] By virtue of the immigration agreement signed with the United States, the Cuban authorities have announced that as of today the deployment of rafts from beaches is prohibited and that the drivers of vehicles transporting rafts will be arrested and prosecuted.

A note from the Interior Ministry warns that despite the measures announced last Friday, irresponsible individuals have continued taking their rustic boats to the sea in order to leave the country.

The plea released by the Cuban Government on Friday urged people who already had their boats ready to remove them within the established deadline and to devote them to some useful purpose.

During the 72-hour deadline, which expires on Tuesday, the authorities will not take action against people or their boats and will only attempt to persuade those who insist on illegally leaving Cuba.

When the deadline expires, the official note explained, departures from the coasts will be prevented even if it becomes necessary to use force in exceptional cases.

UJC Members Work To Prevent Departures

FL1209023294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] The sea is calm near the border post at Cojimar—an old Spanish fort—as the young people chat on a sunny Saturday morning. The Union of Young Communists [UJC] explains to the Pioneers from a nearby school why they are visiting:

[Begin recording] [UJC Secretary Maria Victoria Velazquez, identified by video caption] Their task from 13 September is very important: Convincing, persuading, ensuring that people comply with the terms of the agreement. [end recording]

UJC members who work in the Interior Ministry are familiarizing people with the new accords. A total of 90 percent of the Havana border guard detachment is young. The situation is similar nationwide. A total of 3,000 km of Cuban coast is guarded by mere adolescents:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Everyone, from our own committee to the last worker, including officers

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and staff from the Havana detachment, will have to perform a task identified with the activities of the young combatants in the border guards corps, fundamentally those who are in the military service, who will be directly involved with illegal departures from Cuba. [end recording]

The Havana border guard detachment is in charge of the area from Puerto Escondido to Punta de Mangle, the area where most illegal depatures take place:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The instructions that we have recently received are similar to the ones traditionally followed by the border guards. We have always persuaded people not to attempt this very dangerous activity, and we have detained them. We now have instructions that we are not to detain anyone unless they resist or make use of firearms, knives, or any type of blunt instrument against our troops. [end recording]

Members of the UJC's national bureau shook hands with the young border guards at Cojimar, Celimar, Guanabo, and Baracoa and with the (Jaimanitas) detachment.

Authorities Block Access to Havana Beaches

PA1209020494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2303 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Havana, 11 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Cuban authorities today denied access to roads to beaches in Havana Province to people and vehicles transporting boats to depart for the United States.

The authorities ordered police to seize vehicles transporting rafts, to arrest the drivers, and to check cargo trucks and private and state vehicles at the entrance of Cojimar, a town located 10 km east of Havana, NOTIMEX confirmed.

In recent weeks Cojimar has become one of the main departure points for Cubans, but today its residents seemed to be witnessing the final chapter in these multitudinous departures from Cuba.

The measure was implemented at 0600 local time (1000 GMT). As of tomorrow, it would have been a month since the government stopped preventing Cuban emigrants from departing for U.S. coasts.

Only a few boats packed with passengers that had already reached the littoral were able to take to the sea, although the passengers were aware that they would be taken to the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo by the U.S. Coast Guard. [passage omitted]

"Rafters" interviewed by NOTIMEX in Cojimar condemned the decision by President William Clinton to eliminate the 1966 Adjustment Act, which granted automatic asylum to those arriving in the United States through irregular means.

Havana insists that the Cuban departures are due to the serious economic crisis, which has been exacerbated by the trade embargo imposed by the United States 34 years ago. This blockade has caused economic losses of over $40 billion.

The economic blockade was excluded from the Cuban-U.S. talks in New York, according to the U.S. delegation, despite the fact that Cuba argued it was the major cause for the rafters' crisis.

Further on Surveillance Along Guantanamo Base

PA0909165594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2009 GMT 8 Sep 94

[By special correspondent Ulises Canales]

[Text] Guantanamo, Cuba, 8 Sep (PL)—Maintaining peace in the areas near the naval base occupied by the United States in the southern sector of this province is one of the main objectives of Cuban troops deployed in the area. The objective is to avoid any form of confrontation.

The activities of the border brigade, known to the Cubans for its defense of what is described as the country's main anti-imperialist trench, focus on military preparedness and on continuous observation of enemy territory, while avoiding incidents and refusing to respond to provocations.

According to statements made to PRENSA LATINA by officers of that armed corps at the look-out point on Malones, the highest point near the base (230 meters high), the life of a soldier in this area is one of an apparent calm, marked by the tension of being in a constant state of alert.

Brigadier General Carlos Manuel Perez Perez, commander of the Guantanamo troops, explained that Cuba has adopted a series of measures in light of the worrisome situation that has existed since the U.S. Government decided to confine on that base the thousands of Cubans—23,000 as of today—who were intercepted on the high seas attempting to reach the Florida coast.

In statements to PRENSA LATINA, Perez also warned of a possible explosive situation in the three camps set up for the Cubans, who are being housed in tents and who are living in deplorable conditions surrounded by a high wire fence. The situation is similar for the Haitians who are also being held there.

This news agency was able to observe that among the daily duties of the soldiers in this area is to watch closely the three security rings built around this naval enclave (the closest one located approximately 40 km away) and to erect obstacles to prevent land access to and from the base.

According to Cuban laws, anyone caught trying to enter the area will be brought to trial. Gen. Perez said that there are many reasons for this; for example, there are

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two armies facing each other, it is a very delicate situation, and Cuba will not allow negligence to cause a confrontation.

Regarding the U.S. military presence on the base's 117.6 sq. km, the high-ranking officer said: "The United States should not have this area of tension here. The Cubans love peace."

CDR Leader Urges Greater Surveillance in Neighborhoods

PA1009043594 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0326 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 9 Sep (PL)—A top popular leader urged Cubans today "to make surveillance in all neighborhoods more effective to guarantee the preservation of the major gains" of the social program that began in 1959.

Juan Contino, national coordinator of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR), explained during a meeting with the people that the idea of reinforcing "the CDR guard" was prompted by a call by the country's leadership.

The CDR coordinator stated that President Fidel Castro recently highlighted the need to "adapt the work of every organization to the characteristics of the difficult and complex situation the revolution is experiencing."

Contino announced "changes in the CDR's work because historic moments are never the same and the country is changing," which is why he feels it is vital "to give the people greater participation. [no closing quotation mark as received]

In this respect, the Havana CDR members created the popular and workers forces that on 5 August dealt with the disturbances in some streets that left several windows shattered. The CDR, which joins more than 90 percent of the Cuban population, emerged 34 years ago as a response by the people to sabotage by the counterrevolutionaries in the early 1960's.

TV Carries U.S. Station's Report on Guantanamo 'Tension'

FL1109231594 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast; video reception very poor]

[Text] A Spanish-language U.S. television station has broadcast the following report on Guantanamo Naval Base:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Tension in the Guantanamo camps is rising. The migration agreement between Cuba and the United States has the nearly 30,000 Cuban refugees wondering. Frustration is reaching an alarming level. Some camp leaders warned today that the protest could give way to violence. Meanwhile, U.S. Military Police have prepared their antiriot equipment. Another 2,500 Cubans arrived at Guantanamo today unaware of their future but their faces expressing hope. For this newborn girl and her mother, hope has already vanished. The girl has to live in deplorable conditions.

[Unidentified speaker] Bad, very bad. We do not have the proper conditions here. Look at the dust we have here. The baby is 13...[pauses] 14 days old and she has already been sick three times. I have had to take her to the doctor every day. The bathrooms stink, food is terrible, and medical conditions are terrible. [end recording]

The Cuban refugees are between a rock and a hard place. Their options are not too encouraging: They can return to Cuba voluntarily or they can remain detained at the military camps indefinitely.

Border Patrol Issues Small-Craft Weather Advisory

FL0909214294 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The border patrol has issued a weather advisory good until 2300 GMT on 9 September. A tropical wave passing over central Cuba will threaten the western region and the Florida Straits with numerous showers and thunderstorms during the day. East to southeasterly winds of 15-30 km/hour are forecast on the Straits [words indistinct], with waves reaching two meters in the Gulf and in areas where there are thunderstorms. This will make the situation dangerous for small and rustic craft. Wave height and wind speed will increase during the squalls and thunderstorms.

Additional Boats Depart

PA1009195294 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1905 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 10 Sep (DPA)—A virtual stampede of rafters is expected within the next 72 hours, when the deadline established by the Cuban authorities expires. The deadline was set to persuade future clandestine immigrants from traveling to the United States.

More than 15 boats, most of them solid, departed between 0600 and 1200 (1000 GMT and 1600 GMT) from Cojimar, a fishing town, which has a population of approximately 18,000 and is located less than 20 km east of Havana, although there had been more boats at dawn, according to witnesses.

At 1200 (1600 GMT), Interior Ministry officials started the effort to convince aspiring travelers they would presumably end up at a refugee center at Guantanamo Naval Base, approximately 1,000 km east of the island's capital.

The head of the group, a captain, asked the future rafters to change their minds, because Cuba and the United

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States had worked out an immigration agreement in New York that will allow the issuance of a minimum of 20,000 visas.

"This effort will continue until 13 September at 1200 (1600 GMT) when peaceful action will be taken against stubborn individuals; all of their boats and ship building materials will be seized," the officer said.

In statements to the German Press Agency (DPA), Ernesto Acosta Diaz, 46, who described himself as an agricultural engineer, admitted the Interior Ministry agents had explained themselves "properly and without leveling threats."

Acosta Diaz said, however, he expects the arrival of three comrades to begin the dangerous journey with another five. It is a journey "that will not end in the United States but at Guantanamo Naval Base," he admitted.

Regarding this point, he said one can leave that military installation "with money," and he recounted that eight pastors, who left approximately 15 days ago, paid $10,000 and are already in U.S. territory.

After describing himself as "apolitical" and maintaining "he fought in Angola," he attributed his attitude of wanting to clandestinely migrate to having all his family in the United States, because his wife and three children left for that country approximately 10 days ago.

"U.S. officials kept encouraging illegal departures for years, and they agree with Cuba to prevent them now," Acosta Diaz lamented, adding he was a delegate of the People's Government in Jaruco, in district number seven.

President Bill Clinton, he added, has imposed a measure disregarding the Cuban Adjustment Act, which gives preferential treatment to citizens of the island and was approved by Congress, and only the U.S. legislators have the power to abolish it; otherwise, he said, "it is treason."

After noting Republican administrations are better than the Democratic ones, he criticized Jorge Mas Canosa, leader of the Cuban-American Foundation, describing him "as an unknown individual, one who was a nobody in Cuba and is a millionaire in the United States now."

"I am not a politician. I am not going to bother anyone. I only want to work in peace," Acosta Diaz said.

The anti-Castro radio station CMQ reported today that the U.S. Coast Guard picked up 177 rafters yesterday and that they were sent to Guantanamo Naval Base, where there were 24,543 Cubans and 14,221 Haitians as of yesterday.

Civil Defense Council Warns of Approaching Tropical Storm

PA1109203694 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1951 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 11 Sep (PL)—The National Civil Defense Council today extended the state of information emergency to 11 of the country's 14 provinces, in view of possible torrential rains resulting from a tropical storm.

The area included ranges from Matanzas Province in the west to the eastern provinces, due to the threat of a tropical storm that is currently south of Hispaniola Island, which is shared by Haiti and Dominican Republic.

The storm formed after tropical storm Debbie weakened and is moving toward the west at a speed of 24 to 32 km per hour. It may cause intense rains, lightning storms and heavy winds, according to weather bulletins.

Debbie lost strength last night when it passed south of Puerto Rico after hitting Saint Lucia, Barbados, Saint Vincent and Dominica with winds of up to 75 km per hour.

The Civil Defense yesterday decreed the informative phase of the emergency in the eastern provinces, the first of three levels on the state of emergency scale, to prevent possible damages by the blind forces of nature.

[Words indistinct], businesses and general public should be alert to metereological bulletins and prepare to fulfill the measures established primarily to save human lives, cattle and property, the Civil Defense warns.

Panama Refugees May Receive Visits From Miami Relatives

FL0909155694 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Sep 94

[From the "First Thing" program]

[Text] Military sources from the U.S. Southern Command in Panama have advised that Cuban emigrants, currently in the area of the Panama Canal, will be allowed to receive visits from friends and relatives residing in Miami as of next weekend.

Robaina Meets With Cubans in Spain

PA1009164794 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1531 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Madrid, 10 Sep (PL)—Roberto Robaina, Cuban foreign minister and a member of the political bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), held a meeting today with several dozen members of the Cuban community in Spain.

Robaina explained during his initial introduction the significance of this dialogue, saying it is part of a new policy that emerged from the "Nation and Emigration" conference held last April in Havana, which was attended by more than 200 emigres residing in 47 countries.

He also outlined the measures adopted as a result of that meeting, with regard to ties between Cubans living abroad and their country of birth, and he gave an overview on the current situation on the island.

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The Cuban foreign minister answered many questions, and he listened to various opinions on the laws being applied in this area and on the difficulties encountered by emigres.

The main thing is to end the lack of communication and to restore normal ties between the country and all Cubans, regardless of where they may be, based on respect and an understanding of what is being done in Cuba, despite the ideological discrepancies that may exist, Robaina said.

He insisted that the Caribbean nation is not asking people to support its ideology, that it is not seeking an opinion of unanimity within the Cuban community abroad, nor is it judging the reasons that may have caused each person to leave the fatherland one day; instead, it is seeking the respect, understanding, and defense of Cuban soil due to its current actions.

While this dialogue was under way, demonstrators representing trends of extreme opposition to the Cuban Government raised banners and chanted slogans against Cuba's leaders outside the Cuban Embassy where the meeting was being held.

At the same time, another large group formed by members of solidarity with Cuba organizations also stood in front of the Cuban Embassy with Cuban flags and shouted slogans supportive of the revolution and President Fidel Castro.

Further on 'Solidarity' Event

PA1109041494 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0206 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By Alfredo G. Pierrat]

[Text] Madrid, 10 Sep (PL)—Over 1,000 people today crowded into the Worker Commission [CCOO] auditorium, one of the principal labor organizations in Spain, in a moving act of solidarity with Cuba during a visit to Spain by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina.

When the Cuban foreign minister entered the crowded auditorium, there were cheers of viva the revolution and President Fidel Castro and slogans criticizing the U.S. blockade against the island.

Representatives of friendship associations from all parts of the country gathered at the event, which was organized by the platform The Blockade Continues, As Does Solidarity, and the State Platform for Solidarity With Cuba.

With the presence of Robaina and Rosario Navas, Cuban ambassador to Spain, representatives of these two solidarity organizations reiterated their support for the Cuban revolution and condemned the U.S. blockade against Cuba and Washington's harassment of Cuba.

Foreign Minister Robaina expressed appreciation for the acts of solidarity from these and other organizations. He said Cubans will not disappoint those who support them in the current difficult circumstances.

Cuba has defended and will continue to defend the socialist project, despite adverse conditions, the foreign minister said in a speech constantly interrupted by applause.

Regarding people who wish to travel to the United States in rafts, he said the western media have given them a lot of coverage, but the most important news is that more than 10 million Cubans are resisting the pressure and remaining in the country.

Despite the blockade and hard conditions, not a single hospital has been closed. Life expectancy is 75 years, infant mortality is the lowest in Latin America, and all teachers have students, he stated.

Much has been said of the special period the Cubans are experiencing. It is true there are big difficulties in Cuba today, Robaina said. He added, however, that one must not forget the special period which Latin America has been experiencing for 350 years.

Our food is not varied and we lack many things, but in many places in Latin America there is no variety, and sometimes not even a table, the foreign minister said, recalling that in past months he has toured virtually all Latin American countries.

After noting that Cuba is not ashamed to have chosen the socialist way of life, Robaina extolled the achievements of the Cuban revolution and what remains to be done. He said: We have achieved what was possible. Now we are achieving the impossible and only need a bit of time to make the miracle happen.

During the fifth day of his official visit to Spain, which began on Tuesday, Robaina held a morning meeting with virtually 100 Cuban residents in this country, the first of its type in Spain, as a continuation of the policy implemented following "The Nation and the Emigrants" conference in Havana last April.

The foreign minister noted the measures adopted as a result of that conference regarding the ties of Cubans who live abroad with their native country and reviewed the situation the country is experiencing.

Robaina responded to some 20 questions by participants and heard various opinions on the new rules being applied in this aspect and on the difficulties faced by Cuban migrants.

The essential thing is to break the lack of communication and reestablish a normal link between the country and all Cubans, wherever they may be, on the basis of respect and understanding for what we have achieved on the island, independent of ideological differences that may exist, the foreign minister added.

He insisted that the country is not requesting ideological affiliation, is not asking for unanimous views of the

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Cuban community abroad, and is not passing judgment on why some felt compelled to travel abroad. It is, however, calling for support of the government's current actions, as well for respect, understanding, and defense of the Cuban nation.

Media Criticized for Coverage of Rafters

PA1109002694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2149 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Madrid, 10 Sep (EFE)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said today in Madrid that Cuba and the United States have negotiated "only one part," because his country "will never stop talking about the blockade."

Robaina made these comments in response to a question about the agreement reached between the United States and Cuba regarding the rafters crisis. He had just come from a meeting with supporters of the State Platform for Solidarity with Cuba [Plataforma Estatal de Solidaridad con Cuba].

The meeting, which was attended by more than 1,000 people, was held in the auditorium of the Workers Commission (a left-wing workers union organization) headquarters. The conference became an event to praise the Cuba regime, with the crowd chanting phrases such as "Cuba Yes, Yankee No" and "Fidel, Fidel."

During the event the Cuban foreign minister affirmed that his country "defends and will continue to defend the socialist project, even though circumstances are difficult." He added: "We want to carry out our form of tropical, Cuban, native socialism."

Roberto Robaina criticized the UN attitude, stating that "we know very well who runs it," meaning the United States. He stressed that if the United Nations has authorized an invasion of Haiti, it could do the same for some other country.

Robaina said ironically that "there is nothing more insecure than the UN Security Council. When we are in session, one never knows what country will be bombed next or what country will be the object of some humanitarian intervention."

The Cuban foreign minister said the exodus of Cubans aboard rafts is due to the extreme economic conditions in Cuba imposed by the United States over 30 years ago. He added that if any other Latin American country had been forced to endure the same pressure, the migration flow would have been so heavy "that one would have had to ask who pulled the plug."

Robaina criticized the media because, in his opinion, "too much is said about the rafters, but no one mentions the 10 million Cubans still struggling inside the country." He recalled that despite the blockade, not one hospital was closed, life expectancy is 75 years, and the infant mortality rate is the lowest in Latin America. "If someone needed an organ transplant, it wouldn't cost them a penny."

Opposition Leader Menoyo Discusses Embargo, Talks With Government

BR0909163094 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Sep 94 p4

[Interview with Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, president of Cuban Change, by Juan G. Ibanez in Madrid; date not given: " 'They Are Crawling and We Hope That They Will Soon Learn To Walk' "—first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[Text] Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, president of Cuban Change, a commander in Sierra Maestra, and imprisoned for 22 years by Fidel Castro, thinks he sees the light at the end of the tunnel. According to him, bitterness about the past must make way for political reasoning, which promotes reconciliation between Cubans, defends the sovereignty of the island, and ensures a peaceful transition to democracy.

[Ibanez] If you were next to a Cuban who was about to set out to sea on a raft, would you say to him "May the love of Copper protect you" [as published] or would you try to convince him to stay?

[Menoyo] I would prefer it if not a single Cuban had to take to the sea. We would be pleased if both the Cuban and the U.S. Governments reached an agreement whereby those Cubans who wish to leave the island can do so legally.

[Ibanez] Are you advising the U.S. Government to lift the embargo against Cuba?

[Menoyo] We recommend that both the U.S. Government and the Cuban Government take steps to lift both the economic embargo and the embargo on the human rights and freedoms of the Cuban people.

[Ibanez] Do you think that the statement made by the Cuban Foreign Ministry—i.e., that it is "essential" to maintain the independence of the island in this process of change—is reasonable, or is it an excuse to weaken the changes?

[Menoyo] It is reasonable. Every Cuban who loves his country must agree to maintain the independence and sovereignty of Cuba.

[Ibanez] If the Cuban Government has the challenge of evolving toward democracy, does the opposition have the challenge of evolving toward a negotiated outcome accepted by the majority of the many anti-Castro groups?

[Menoyo] Certainly, but every day we meet with greater receptiveness and willingness. I am sure that, deep down, the majority of Cubans want a peaceful solution.

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[Ibanez] Do you believe that Fidel Castro has decided to tackle the profound changes required by Cuba's democratization?

[Menoyo] I believe so. Times are changing, and now that the Communist bloc has collapsed, there is no other remedy but to carry out changes.

[Ibanez] Can, or must, Castro oversee the change?

[Menoyo] Castro—who, in the final analysis, is the one who currently holds power in Cuba—must contribute to the peaceful change. That would be a success for him. If he were prepared to put himself up for a free vote... The people are sovereign. However, after so many years in power, I do not think he is interested in standing as a candidate in an election.

[Ibanez] What economic and political reform measures can be implemented in the short term to show that the Cuban Government truly has the will to see through a transition to democracy?

[Menoyo] One inevitable reform measure is the liberalization of the agricultural market, so that there is no state intervention. It is quite clear that there must also be a change in the monetary system to pull the excess money out of circulation. And then there are taxes. Perhaps with good will we can achieve full freedom of political association in the short or medium term. They are crawling now, and we hope that they will soon learn to walk.

Opposition Leader Urges Partial End to U.S. Embargo

BR0909163894 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Sep 94 p 4

[Interview with Alfredo Duran, vice president of the Cuban Committee for Democracy, by Juan G. Ibanez in Madrid; date not given: "Duran: 'United States Should Lift Trade Embargo'"—first paragrpah is EL PAIS introduction]

[Text] Madrid—Alfredo Duran is 58. He is vice president of the Cuban Committee for Democracy and former president of the North American Democratic Party in Florida. He believes that the Cuban Government really is prepared to implement reforms to the regime before long, especially economic reforms.

[Ibanez] Do you think, after your talks with Minister Robaina, that Castro is ready to implement significant economic and political reforms in a short space of time?

[Duran] I do not think we can deduce that from the talks with Minister Robaina. It could be deduced that the will is there to implement economic reform. The most important thing to come out of these talks is the recognition of the fact that there is an opposition—that is something quite new in the behavior of the Cuban Government. The other major novelty is the will to continue talks.

[Ibanez] Do you recommend that the U.S. Government lift the embargo against Cuba?

[Duran] The United States has maintained a policy over the past 35 years which has proven ineffective. I believe it should take measures to lift that part of the embargo concerning drugs, food, communications, and travel.

[Ibanez] Do you think that such a move could come out of the talks initiated in New York on the massive exodus of boat people?

[Duran] The United States could at least agree that the New York conference be an ongoing process, in exchange for which concessions could be obtained from the Cuban Government.

[Ibanez] Following your talks with Robaina, do such concessions seem feasible?

[Duran] It seems to me that Minister Robaina and the Cuban Government are prepared to make certain economic openings.

Opposition Official 'Cautiously Optimistic' About Talks With Government

BR0909161494 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 9 Sep 94 p4

[Interview with Ramon Cernuda, foreign represntative of the Coordinating Committee of Human Rights Organizations in Cuba, by Juan G. Ibanez in Madrid; date not given: "Cernuda: 'If We Loosen Some Knots We Will Untie Others'"—first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[Text] Madrid—After a conversation lasting one and one-half hours with the Cuban foreign minister, Ramon Cernuda said yesterday that he was "cautiously optimistic" about the establishment of a stable dialogue between the Cuban Government and the united opposition to the regime. Cernuda, 47, is the foreign representative of the Coordinating Committee of Human Rights Organizations in Cuba.

[Ibanez] Will the dialogue be expanded to include the whole opposition for negotiations on an authentic process of democratization?

[Cernuda] I have seen the will to continue these talks. The meetings with Minister Robaina were held on an individual basis and the Cuban Government did not want to recognize the representativeness of the people who had been invited to take part in these talks. It was the Cuban Government that asked for the number of interlocutors to be increased. However, we said that there should be talks with no exclusions.

[Ibanez] Could the start of talks in New York on the boat people lay fundamental problems on the table, such as the embargo and the process of democratization?

[Cernuda] Two governments are talking in New York. In Madrid we spoke with the Cuban Government and the

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Cuban opposition. If we help to loosen some knots we will help to completely untie others. The economic problem goes further than just the embargo.

[Ibanez] Do you think that Spanish collaboration is helping to keep Castro in power?

[Cernuda] I do not think that, nor does Elisardo Sanchez (the principal leader of the Coordination Committee of Human Rights Organizations in Cuba—EL PAIS editor's note) or other organizations in the moderate opposition. Quite the contrary. Economic relations help in the process of detente.

Haitian Military Reportedly Intensifies Recruiting Efforts

FL1209014294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] Despite Latin America's rejection of the use of force, the United States has confirmed the deployment of combat troops as part of a multinational force that would participate in a possible invasion of Haiti. Meanwhile, the military that ousted Jean-Bertrand Aristide three years ago has intensified recruiting efforts for so-called volunteers to participate in defense contingents to confront any foreign aggression. Among other forces that the White House will send to the area are 20 combat vessels, headed by the aircraft carrier Eisenhower.

Dominican Republic

President Dismisses Security, Armed Forces Heads

PA0909173194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1638 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 9 Sep (EFE)—Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer dismissed today General Constantino Matas Villanueva, Armed Forces secretary, and General Fracisco Javier Nunez Jimenez, director of the National Investigation Department (DNI, secret police).

A presidential decree states Matas Villanueva was replaced by Rear Admiral Ivan Vargas Cespedes, Navy chief of staff until now, and Nunez Jimenez was replaced by Gen. Ramon Alcides Rodriguez.

An official communique from the Presidency of the Republic reported the changes but did not mention the reasons behind the dismissals.

Nevertheless, people close to the Presidency said these changes in the Armed Forces and Security Forces will be followed by others.

Matas Villanueva traveled regularly to the Haitian border to supervise the land and naval blockade, and he replaced the officers in charge of the deployment of the Dominican forces in the zone on various occasions.

Haiti

Concrete Barriers Placed Around Palace, Police Headquarters

FL0909210194 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The sandbags surrounding Police Headquarters and the National Palace have been replaced with concrete barriers. The measure was taken after it was discovered that traffic had eased back onto most of the roads that military authorities had blocked after the Jonassaint government decided to limit access to strategic areas. AHP reports that armed civilians have set upon drivers who choose to use the roads once the sandbags blocking them fall apart. Observers believe that just like the ongoing training of civilians on the Champ-de-Mars, the ban on the use of some roads leading to the National Palace and the Port-au-Prince Police Headquarters falls within the scope of the policy of the current authorities to convince the local and international public of their willingness to face any foreign intervention.

'Several Hundred' Protest Embargo, Intervention

FL0909222594 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Report by Jean Luckenson; first paragraph announcer-read introduction]

[Excerpts] Several hundred people took to the streets on the afternoon of 8 September to answer the call of several right-wing political groups. The demonstrators chanted subversive slogans protesting the Haitian president-in-exile, the UN sanctions, and particularly the specter of foreign intervention which is looming larger. Luckenson Jean was there and filed this report:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Crowd, chanting] Thank you very much, Haitian Army! Thank you very much, Haitian Army! Thank you very much, Haitian Army! You saved us from being necklaced!

[Jean] Several hundred men and women took to the streets in Bicentenaire, Port-au-Prince, at about 1300 on 8 September to protest the embargo, intervention, and the return of the exiled head of state. The Civic Action Group and Capois Lamort [OCL] called the demonstration. The demonstrators were waving tree branches, colorful flags, and placards reading: Haiti Is Not for Sale; No to Intimidation, Yes to Diplomacy; Down with 1915. Many demonstrators were wearing white t-shirts bearing a red eagle and the word no. Several voodoo priestesses donned multicolored clothes, carried maracas, and chanted. Most of the demonstrators were young men who normally train on the Champ-de-Mars. They threatened foreign photojournalists. [passage omitted]

I met Franck Pierre, OCL leader and one of the organizers:

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[Pierre] The Haitian people are taking initiative in staging this demonstration against the embargo that is destroying the country and against the multinational intervention that Jean- Bertrand Aristide and Clinton want. We, the Haitian people, ask that the warships at sea...[pauses] that the Clinton administration order the warships to leave our territorial waters. We ask that warplanes stop flying over Haitian territory every day between 2300 and 0000. We Haitians, are fighting for peace and not war. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Signal FM carries a recorded report by Jacmel correspondent Voltaire Rene during the same newscast. Rene reports: "Several hundred people gathered on the Toussaint Louverture parade ground, in front of Jacmel City Hall, at 0900 on 8 September to protest the embargo and foreign intervention. Leslie Ambroise, principal at Jacmel's Pinchinat Public High School, commented."

[Ambroise's comments follow: "[Words indistinct] we say we are not macoutes or lavalassians. We are Haitians. The embargo does not discriminate. It affects all Haitians. [Words indistinct] that is why we have met here today, to say: Down With Intervention! Down With Intervention! We in the southeast are shouting for help: Down With the Embargo! Down With the Embargo!"]

Cedras, Troops March Through Streets in Show of Force

PA1009015594 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2230 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 9 Sep (EFE)—Approximately 1,000 Haitian armed officers and troops marched today, Friday, through the streets of Port-au-Prince, in a show of force in the event of a possible U.S. invasion of Haiti.

The march was headed by Haiti's strongman General Raoul Cedras, together with other members of the General Staff.

The officers marched, together with the troops, through several streets of the Haitian capital, passed in front of the Presidential Palace, and then entered their garrisons.

Aristide on Return, Fate of Putschists

BR1209074994 Paris LE MONDE in French 9 Sep 94 pp 1,4

[Interview with former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide by Sylvie Kauffmann in Washington; date not given: "Father Aristide: 'What We Need Is Reconciliation'"]

[Text] [Kauffmann] When are you planning to go back to Haiti?

[Aristide] When democracy is being restored there-...(laughs—LE MONDE editor's note)

[Kauffmann] Are you more optimistic now as to the day this will happen?

[Aristide] Yes. The peaceful resistance of the Haitian people is gradually bringing us closer to a settlement. The putschists are going to have to step down; they have no other choice. The international community has been playing its part, slowly, very slowly, much too slowly. Had it matched its pace to that of the putschists in implementing the UN resolutions and the Governors' Island agreement, I would be there already. (Footnote 1) (The Governors' Island agreement, signed on 3 July 1993 under the aegis of the United Nations, provided for the Haiti junta to step down and President Aristide to return on the following 31 October. Resolution 940 passed by the UN Security Council on 31 July allows the United States to use "whatever means it deems necessary" to restore democracy.) I am pleased with U.S. declarations. But I will be even happier when the implementation (of international decisions—LE MONDE editor's note) begins at last.

[Kauffmann] At which stage of this implementation are you planning to go back? When the Americans intervene? Or during the second phase, that of consolidation?

[Aristide] Once the Governors' Island agreement has been implemented, I would be going back fairly quickly. It may be a matter of days.

[Kauffmann] Meaning, after the putschists have left?

[Aristide] Yes. With the putschists gone, the international community will help us make the army more professional, start reforming it....

[Kauffmann] What will your priorities be on returning to Port-au-Prince?

[Aristide] National reconciliation is essential. Currently, the country has the image of a broken glass. We must pick up the pieces together. Within a constitutional framework, and in the respect of democratic principles: What we need is reconciliation, not revenge; justice, not impunity. We need to unite to promote economic growth. This concern also pertains to security. As part of this new start, the Haitian people must enjoy real safety, as it did for the first time during the seven months we were in power.

[Kauffmann] Have you already made contacts, here or in Haiti, to promote reconciliation, for instance with business circles?

[Aristide] We have been in touch right here. Very recently, I spent four hours with them exploring ways to ensure investment security, to give new impetus to the macroeconomic framework, to encourage economic initiative. It is in such a context that a team just left for Paris to have talks with financial institutions. This went quite well. If we are to have a state based on the rule of law, we need, through reconciliation, to boost whatever synergy there is between the various players.

[Kauffmann] What makes you think business, a good part of which collaborated with the current regime, is ready to work with you?

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[Aristide] They have no choice. In this respect, South Africa is a revealing example. On 7 February 1986, we celebrated reconciliation with an army which had killed thousands of Haitians. In South Africa, on 10 May this year, Nelson Mandela celebrated reconciliation between the people and the army. Haiti's private sector has no other choice: Just as De Klerk cooperated to make the transition possible, so we all need to cooperate in view of this new start. This is a political stance which takes vested interests into account. The private sector will have an opportunity to take part in the renaissance of the nation.

[Kauffmann] What will happen to the putschists and all those who collaborated with the regime?

[Aristide] Let me state our principles once again: neither revenge nor impunity; yes to justice, yes to reconciliation. It was in this context that, in accordance with Section 147 of the Constitution, I decided a political amnesty. A coup is in and of itself a political crime: Therefore the putschists will be able to avail themselves of the amnesty. However, this must not be confused with the pardon provided for by Section 146, which may be granted by the president after a trial.

If they are implicated in murders—and civilian UN observers have gathered many witness accounts of human rights violations and assassinations—or in drug dealing, then we are forced to look at their future in the light of the law. In other words, they are eligible for political amnesty, but international law does not provide for a general amnesty for crimes against humanity. I am only the president: Let the judiciary do its job.

[Kauffmann] And what about political collaborators, those who participated in the regime but who do not necessarily have blood on their hands?

[Aristide] They will benefit from my approach, which is both legal and human. I am opening my arms to ensure that the national reconciliation process is not an empty word, but a viable and potentially vibrant reality. And I am going to continue. This is why I am saying it is crucial that we pick up the pieces of that glass I mentioned earlier. Having said that, I use the word "legal" because I am the president; I have no judiciary power. My job is to establish a safe environment so that everyone is able to face up to their own responsibility. Now, establishing a rule of law right now is up to the legislator.

[Kauffmann] Are you ready to govern with them?

[Aristide] I think so.

[Kauffmann] What about them?

[Aristide] They have to. Neither impunity nor revenge.

[Kauffmann] You recently took part in the taping of television programs broadcast by the United States and directed at your fellow Haitians. What are you telling them?

[Aristide] Essentially what I have been telling you. This morning, for 53 minutes, I told them of the spirit of love which guided Father Vincent (Footnote 2) (a member of President Aristide's inner circle, Father Jean-Marie Vincent was shot dead in front of his home in Port-au-Prince 10 days ago) throughout his life, and also of Section 4 of our Constitution, which specifies that we are all brothers. This same spirit must enable us today to answer this murder with peace and reconciliation.

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Salinas Announces Trade Pact With Bolivia

PA0909132594 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Report by Juan Ayon from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Excerpt] President Carlos Salinas was involved in several activities today. After announcing that the free trade agreement with Bolivia is ready, the president said the eighth Rio Group Summit will contribute to the continuation of the Latin American integration process. The president made the statement during a working tour of Mexico City a few hours before traveling to Panama and Brazil to attend the Rio Group Summit. These were the president's remarks:

[Begin Salinas recording] One of the most important topics that will be discussed at the meeting is the integration process. I am quite pleased to have achieved a free trade agreement with Bolivia, and this agreement is one more link in the chain we are building toward a regional integration process. We are working for specific results without much rhetoric. [end recording]

Salinas said when NAFTA was being promoted, certain people said Mexico would turn its back on Latin America even though the goal was to work for Latin American integration:

[Begin Salinas recording] Another topic that will be discussed at the Rio Group meeting is the upcoming Miami Summit. There is great regional interest in this meeting, and I am certain those who attend will find the opportunity to promote, on a continental level, a more dynamic integration process for the opening of markets. [end recording]

Salinas said the opening of markets will help Mexicans send their products abroad and create more jobs in the country.

Finally, regarding his visit to Panama, the Mexican president said he accepted an invitation from President Ernesto Perez Balladares, adding this invitation is another opportunity to open up new markets. [passage omitted]

Salinas Says Country's Position 'Strengthened' at Rio Group

PA1109230394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0422 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari described as fruitful his working tour of Panama and Brazil.

Upon arriving in Mexico City from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Salinas told journalists that his three-day tour of two Latin American nations consolidated Mexico's position abroad.

The Mexican president arrived in this capital aboard the President Juarez 757 Boeing at 2005 (0205 GMT on Sunday).

Commenting on the Rio Group, the Mexican president said that after the summit, which gathered 14 presidents from Latin America and the Caribbean, the regional organization was consolidated as a mechanism of communication and integration on the continent.

The consolidation of the Rio Group as a means of communication and as a policymaking and initiative-taking body was achieved, Salinas added.

Salinas reiterated that Mexico's position was strengthened because "there is support for the fundamental principles of our foreign policy abroad."

At the meeting, the means to continue promoting Mexican interests were found, in keeping with the historical similarities and improved relations between the member countries of the Rio Group.

Regarding the Summit of the Americas to be held in Miami, Florida in December, the Mexican president said specific proposals could be made at the summit, particularly on the opening of markets.

Zedillo Announces Plans To Prevent PRI 'Dependence'

PA1109210894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0047 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Sep (NOTIMEX)—Virtual President-elect Ernesto Zedillo today announced changes in the ruling party designed to prevent its dependence on the government. He pledged to promote the "complete autonomy" of the country's electoral organizations. "We do not want a party taken over by the state or a state taken over by the party," said Zedillo, a 42-year-old economist who according to official figures won the 21 August presidential elections with slightly more than 48 percent of the vote.

On Sunday [as received], Zedillo presided over a ceremony installing the commission in charge of drafting an internal reform agenda for the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has ruled Mexico without interruption since 1929.

Zedillo, whose victory has yet to be ratified by Congress, announced that the agenda must be completed before 15 November so he may be allowed to encourage his party's internal reforms before assuming the presidency.

The new Mexican president must take over from his predecessor on 1 December. According to Zedillo, "starting on that date I must dedicate myself exclusively, as a public servant, to the duties specified by the Constitution."

According to the virtual president-elect, the changes his party will undergo should include a "redefinition" of

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relations between the president of the country and the ruling party. "This does not imply, nor will it imply, a rupture. Instead, it will be a healthy and clear distance which will allow the PRI to strengthen its tasks and capacity as society's legitimate representative before the government," he added. He also reasserted that in order to "establish that distance" between the PRI and the government, it is necessary to "create new rules and procedures" within the ruling party and "strengthen its collegial organizations."

The PRI, founded in 1929 as the means to unite various military chiefs who took part in the popular revolution that gave the country its current constitution in 1927, has remained undefeated in presidential elections. The opposition has criticized the symbiosis between the ruling party and the government, particularly in the control of electoral mechanisms. Nevertheless, a series of political reforms gave more autonomy to the electoral organizations in the 21 August elections.

Given the latest electoral results, Zedillo pledged to analyze, "with the other parties' consensus," the electoral organization's operations and establish the best way to achieve its complete autonomy.

Jesus Reyes Heroles, coordinator of the PRI's National Ideology Commission, said some of the reforms will be progressively carried out within the ruling party and will become effective in 2000.

Nevertheless, some of those reforms might be carried out in 1995 and others prior to the 1997 federal elections. It will be an "organized and strategic process," rather than a "lack of conviction or a result of timidity," Reyes Heroles warned. The leader said a joint plenum with the PRI National Executive Committee will be held on 22 October to evaluate the progress achieved. A report on the commission's work will be submitted on 12 November. Reyes Heroles, one of the party's main ideologists, said the internal reforms will include a revision of the PRI's ties with the government, Congress, social organizations, the media, and other political groups. Likewise, there are plans for "a political program;" an "ideological and programmatic revision" of its declaration of principles; updating mechanisms to struggle for democracy and sovereignty; and economic, social, and foreign policy programs.

The goal also includes new internal organization mechanisms and new proposals to strengthen internal democracy and alternative methods for the selection of candidates and leaders.

Details of Bank Fraud Case

PA0909195794 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Sep 94 p 42

[Report by Ciro Perez and David Aponte]

[Text] Carlos Cabal Peniche, president of Banco Union and the Cremi Financial Group, organized and used ghost and junk [fantasma y chatarra] companies to transfer more than $110 million from these banking institutions to U.S. and Asian banks, according to charges filed by the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP) and the National Banking Commission (CNB) with the Attorney General's Office (PGR).

Nevertheless, the financial transfers and self-loans made through triangular transactions among at least 15 companies surpassed $700 million in the past four months. This represents 64 percent of the estimated $1.1 billion fortune of the Tabasco banker.

The banker used the services of other domestic and international banking institutions—among them Multibanco, Mercantil Probursa, Banpais, BANCOMER [Banco Comercial], Banco Internacional, First Interexchange Bank of Los Angeles, Security Pacific, National Bank of Loredo, New York American Express, and First Asian Development Bank Limited—to carry out these operations.

Cabal Peniche earmarked these resources for his personal benefit through "deceit and manipulation and by presenting a false reality," according to SHCP's and CNB's conclusions presented to Seventh District Criminal Judge Ricardo Ojeda Bohorquez.

At the request of SHPC, the PGR arrested and brought before Judge Ojeda nine of the 13 people involved in self-loans in the financial group.

All were freed on bail, which will be fixed by the judge in the near future. These people are Alberto Garcia Diaz, joint director of Banca de Inversion; Jose Rivas Almaraz, director of Banca Comercial Metropolitana; Manuel Eclave Miranda, director of Arrendadora Union; Eduardo Hernandez Torres, legal representative of the Alfil Group; Rafael Mirafuentes Magdaleno, director of strategic planning; Marcos Mendoza Mariscal, joint director of Banca Internacional; Raul Zepeda Gonzalez, director of financial planning; Marco Antonio Villalobos Alcopar, administrative and financial director of Arrendadora Pragma; and Jesus Carlos Sanchez Sanchez, manager of the same rental company.

Federal Judicial Police (PJF) have not yet located Carlos Cabal Peniche, president of the Board of Directors of Banco Union and the Cremi Group; Hector Gomez Lopez, legal representative of another of the ghost companies; and Mauricio Pablo Madero O'Brien, president and vice president of Pragma.

Those arrested were taken the Oriente Penitentiary at 1330 and were brought before Judge Ojeda for their first hearing at 1545.

Since very early in the morning, the Seventh Criminal Court's halls were unusually crowded with men wearing suits and using cellular phones—white collar men who wanted information on the detainees.

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The members of the Banco Union's Board of Directors, all of them wearing white long-sleeve shirts, came to the window to testify and listen to the charges filed by the SHCP and CNB.

The court secretary read the text of the complaint containing the most serious charges of irregular actions and operations in which various Banco Union officials were involved.

The secretary also read the line of credit renewals granted to companies that did not have sufficient capital to pay back huge loans, such as Alfil Co., which had assets for only 3 million new pesos but received $220 million in less than four months—funds that were immediately sent to a Banco Union account in the United States.

The operations were repeated in 16 paper companies until the $700 million mark was surpassed in a few months.

The fugitive banker created Alfil & Associates, Servicios Tecfin, Promotora Valle Verde, Constructora Latina, Promotora Mastla, Promotora Azteca, Constructora M.O., Construproyectos, the Pragma Group, Promotora Vista del Valle, Consorcio Mundial, Promociones Sobia, Promotora Loma Hermosa, Mercados Unidos, and Promotora Urales. Eight of these companies shared the same address in Mexico City.

The paper companies received loans that were deposited on that same day in checking accounts of Banco Union through the banking services of other national and international institutions. In this way, the money apparently being lent to those companies was returned to Cabal Peniche's hands.

During the inquiry, the secretary revealed the conclusions reached by SHCP and CNB: "It is the opinion of this organization, based on the facts contained in this official note, that CPA Mauricio Madero O'Brien; Pablo Madero O'Brien, president and vice president of the Arrendadora Financiera Pragma's Board of Directors; Pragma Director General Alberto Rodriguez Castaneda; Marco Antonio Villalobos Alcopar, Pragma's director of administration and finance; and Jose Carlos Sanchez Sanchez, its administrative manager, altered the organization's records to conceal the true nature of the transactions made."

He also said: "Carlos Cabal Peniche and the other bank employees and officials altered Banco Union accounting records to conceal the true nature of transactions in exchanging assets and liabilities.

"Through deceit and schemes to distort reality, Carlos Cabal Peniche obtained resources from Banco Union that were partly used to pay for a $100 million loan that Banobras had granted to Banco Union, which was in turn used by Cabal for his own benefit.

"Mr. Cabal Peniche, as president of the Board of Directors and primary stockholder of Banco Union, received income through illegal transactions via companies that were reportedly unrelated to him, and this involved securing loans for himself in clear violation of the law and banking practices that should protect public interests."

Fiscal authorities accused the suspects of violating several provisions of the Banking Law, portraying them as accomplices of Cabal Peniche's operations.

After the inquiry, some of the suspects claimed they were only employees who were following orders. All of them reserved the right to testify, and their lawyers said bail will not be set until the charges are carefully reviewed.

PGR Leader Interviewed on Drug Trafficking Fight

PA1009160694 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 6 Sep 94 p 33

["Part 1" of article by Rodolfo Rojas-Zea: "The Owl's Song"]

[Text] "On 1 January 1994 the Special Group of the Attorney General's Office [PGR] under my command entered the phase of arrest warrants," Eduardo Valle Espinosa told EL FINANCIERO during an exclusive interview at his home shortly before he left for Virginia in the United States, where he noe resides.

"We wanted no more investigations or intelligence work. We knew what we wanted to do, and that was to issue warrants for the arrest of Juan Garcia Abrego and his accomplices. Let us arrest those miserable crooks," he said.

Valle Espinosa recalled that in 1989 "the group led by the top representative of the Colombian cartels in Mexico had been on the verge of arrest when, quite mysteriously, all evidence disappeared from the PGR offices in Matamoros, Tamaulipas—documents, weapons, and even the cocaine seized from the Gulf Cartel. Pilar Silva Arroyo, head of the PGR offices in Matamoros, was immediately removed by Jorge Carpizo, but later, also for mysterious reasons, her involvement in the case was dismissed," Valle Espinosa recalled.

"Then came 1 January 1994. As everyone knows, the situation in Chiapas erupted, and Jorge Carpizo McGregor was transferred from the PGR to the Government Secretariat. The PGR was overtaken by administrative unrest. I tendered my resignation—not irrevocably—but my resignation was not accepted. They reiterated their trust in me, and week after week after week went by."

Finally, "I tendered my resignation to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari in a letter published by EL FINANCIERO and which became effective on 14 May, shortly before Diego Valades left the PGR."

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But, "we had begun to work and to detain very important people within that organization. We were detaining them and no longer investigating if they owned this or that company, if they were or were not involved with this or that governor. No, no, no. We were detaining them. We were determined to destroy that multinational criminal organization."

"Suddenly, we realized we were not allowed to enter the most important state for them—Oaxaca. They claim I was coming in with 100 agents, but that is not true. I was coming in with only 30 members of the Federal Judicial Police selected by me. Not 100 agents, only 30 agents."

"Those 30 agents had to cover Quintana Roo, Tamaulipas, Morelos, Queretaro, Veracruz, Mexico, and the Federal District. They claimed we were armed to the hilt, but we only had the usual weapons: old pistols—it wasn't until the very end that we were given new weapons. I was given a brand new Walther P-38—'and the old goats horns'," he recalled.

El Buho said: "We had the old Browning and old horn, the traditional AK-47, we had a helicopter that flew real well. I would like to take this opportunity to send a fraternal greeting to the pilot who is a legend among us. There is no reason why I should give you his name. We had a plane that we even used to sleep in because there was a time during those three months that we made 91 trips."

"Of course," he added, "we also had our own high frequency communications equipment. We had this equipment for one reason only: They, the drug traffickers, have the best equipment for interception; therefore, to somewhat alleviate the fact that the drug traffickers used codes—they have everything—we used our own codes and communications."

Thus equipped, we "apprehended one of the people closest to Juan Garcia Abrego, Juan Manuel Davila, the so-called El Quince, and during a big shoot-out we detained one of the organization's top gunslingers—not the first or the second, not even the third, but most certainly the fourth or fifth, whom they called El Conejo."

A former student leader in 1968; an economist who graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, UNAM, after being in jail until 1971 for his involvement in the 1970 incidents; founder, with Heberto Castilo, of the Mexican Workers Party (PMT); former federal deputy for that defunct political party; former president of the Union of Democratic Journalists (UPD); and former adviser for Attorneys General Jorge Carpizo and Diego Valades; El Buho—in some way representative of the so-called "peace and love" generation—thus summarizes his duties as chief of the so-called Special Group of the PGR:

"We conducted dozens of operations—I am talking about 40 or 50—and we only used our weapons in one. We didn't wound anyone. It was not our intention to kill or wound anyone; we wanted to capture them. In March, however, there was a shoot-out."

The PGR "knows perfectly well we could not enter that area. The situation would have been extremely difficult had we gone into that situation. Nonetheless, we had identified Prisciliano Garcia Medrano, the second gunman of Garcia Abrego, who had escaped from the Matamoros penitentiary in a commando type action."

"We identified" Garcia Medrano "in Tehuantepec, and he is serving his 20-year sentence, because he is a terrible murderer," he has said.

"We managed to worry them very much, and here 'El Buho' speaks in the plural in an extensive quote to all of his group members 'because you must know not everything is corrupt within the PGR.'"

For the first time, "Juan Garcia Abrego, Oscar Malherbe, Ricardo Aguirre Villagomez, people from the Judicial Police of Tamaulips such as 'El Checo' Guzman, or people such as 'Don Paco' or 'Don Chico,' who are very important people within the organization, knew that we were after them, that nothing could stop us, and that we were going to arrest them," he said.

Now "how can one explain the existence of these individuals? Very simply, because they were protected for 15 years by the PGR, protected by the best commanders, the best communications system, the best intelligence systems. The PGR adopted them and made them what they are," he answered.

This business of "the PGR as an intermediary of public power prevails. This is not an institution separated from the federal government but, rather, an office that is an intermediary of the federal government with the drug traffickers."

He said: "We are talking of Amado Carrillo, of the Arellano Felix brothers, who controlled heroin in this country, of Garcia Abrego, and of others such as Hector 'El Guero' Palma, or even Felix Gallardo."

To speak specifically "about Tamaulipas, I will tell you: The good faith and the efforts of Alfredo Cavazos Lerma, as shown in a systematic manner in his relation to us, were lost, because everything from the governor on down is enemy territory ."

Another example: "The splendid reaction from Socrates Rizzo and his people—both his attorney general as well as his chief of the Judicial Police in the state; I believe his name is Fernando Guzman—had to be stopped, because then you began to enter the schemings of the financial interests. Everything would then fall and the pressure began."

According to the former PGR official, the creation of the National Security Coordination Board by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, which is directed by Arsenio Farell Cubillas, "was a late but explainable reaction" of

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the president "in view of the terrible pressures from drug traffickers and the generalized violence at the time."

He added "had this been created by the president during the marvelous two years of Juan Garcia Abrego, 1988-1989, when three planes with 6 tons of cocaine were landing weekly and sometimes daily in Matamoros in order to be taken to the United States, this would have been great, of course, without the presence of the scoundrel of Enrique Alvarez del Castillo, because that was mockery to the country."

In this part of the interview, "El Buho" does not sing; he laughs and says: "It was insane to put Enrique Alvarez del Castillo in the PGR."

He surmised the outrageous appointment of the man who was also the former governor of Jalisco to the top judicial post of the country "was President Salinas de Gortari's way of expressing personal appreciation on the basis that in reality Javier Coello, the so called 'iron prosecutor,' was the man who was going to actually handle the struggle against narcotics trafficking."

This "perversion of the political proposal—that is, 'I am going to place a man who is supposedly responsible, my beloved teacher' and so forth, so that he will make the personal appearance, but Coello is the man who really has the power—is what ended up the way it did: The strengthening of a narcopolice that ended the life of Luis Donaldo Colosio in Lomas Taurinas," Valle Espinosa assured.

He added "Coello Trejo suddenly realized one day that he was deeply hated by society, that he was linked to the gang of scoundrels of the other one (Alvarez del Castillo) and he had to go."

And he left. Everyone knows, however, "during his government, Alvarez del Castillo was very obliging with the drug traffickers."

He took over, however, on 1 December 1988 as attorney general to the republic. In addition, he was accompanied by Fernando Gutierrez Barrios in the Government Secretariat, and this was no joke; this was something about which to be angry." This interview will continue tomorrow.

Further on Cartel Operations, Drug Fight

PA1209043894 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 7 Sep 94 p 36

["Part 2" of article by Rodolfo Rojas-Zea: "The Owl's Song"]

[Text] "President Carlos Salinas de Gortari never understood the drug trafficking problem. He always believed he had it under control, but it got out of hand," Eduardo Valle Espinosa told EL FINANCIERO during an exclusive interview at his home shortly before he left for Virginia in the United States, where he now lives.

At the beginning of his administration, he added, "the president really believed he was in control of the country, but that was not the case."

"Do you remember the article I published called 'Mambo and Rumba?' It was my response to a statement by President Salinas to the effect that 'here we are in control and have a plan [tenemos mando y rumbo].' If you read the president's report, you will see that he believed he had the country under control. That, however, was not so."

At the time, "the whole drug trafficking problem was blowing up in his face—I mean right in his face—and he didn't even realize it. His image of the country from that time on was totally distorted, particularly during the last years of his administration."

Please "keep in mind that the 'presidential band'—and I do not mean the presidential sash the president wears, but the band of brigands, as Jose Revueltas defined them, which surrounds the president—tries to keep the president from seeing or allows him to see only what the 'presidential band' wants him to see. Then, all of a sudden, the guy sees things as they are and asks: What is going on here?"

[EL FINANCIERO] What was going on in 1990 when you published that article?

[Valle] Drug trafficking was at its absolute peak. The Gulf cartel was landing at least three airplanes in Matamoros every week loaded with 6 tons of cocaine. That is about 300 tons a year. If we say it is $16,000 per kilogram, that means Juan Garcia Abrego alone handled $4.8 million between 1988 and 1989. In addition, Arellano Felix's Tijuana cartel was moving an enormous amount of heroin, and the Pacific cartel and Amado Carrillo Fuentes were handling marijuana and cocaine. Now, Juan Garcia Abrego was moving some heroin as well. They were offering mostly heroin in Milwaukee.

Valle Espinosa added:

[Valle] We are talking about tons of cocaine and, of course, tons and tons of marijuana. They shipped out the entire Michoacan production. Pedro Diaz Parada, who produces marijuana in Oaxaca, supplied Amado; Juan; "El Chapo" Guzman, currently in prison in Almadoya de Juarez, Mexico State; "El Guero" Palma; and anybody else. Caro Quintero was in prison then, but Felix Gallardo was not. Gallardo handled cocaine, and his cartel was once larger because he worked with Honduras' Juan Mata Ballesteros.

[EL FINANCIERO] How many cartels are there in Mexico?

[Valle] Big ones? If you mean nationwide drug trafficking systems or multinational criminal organizations, there is Amado Carrillo Fuentes, Juan Garcia Abrego, and the Arellano Felix organization. Then there are the smaller setups we could call regional organizations that

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support one another and sometimes several support one or more. Among these are "El Chapo," "El Guero" Palma, and Juan Jose Esparragosa, alias "El Azul." In my view, this man is playing an essential role now. He is probably acting as a high-ranking operator for Juan Garcia Abrego in his relations with the Arellano Felix organization and is also seeking peace with Amado Carrillo.

[EL FINANCIERO] Isn't he a member of the Juarez Cartel?

[Valle] No. Juan Jose Esparragosa, "El Azul," is a first generation elder who has authority over everyone else. It is also possible, however, that he is working in Tamaulipas providing support for Juan Garcia Abrego while working for peace with the Arellano Felix group and Amado Carrillo at the same time. Peace in Mexican drug trafficking terms means Ciudad Juarez and Cancun will be open markets where all cartels can operate in holy peace and without Bali-Hi—the restaurant on Insurgentes Avenue where a well-known drug kingpin was recently murdered—and without Iguala or Cristina and the like. Esparragosa is from Reynosa, but he was a member of the old team of "Don Neto." That is the kind of person he is. He is incredibly clever and, above all, he has already paid. He spent eight years in a Guadalajara prison and is now free again. He is probably on the border in the Tamaulipas area. He is playing a highly strategic role.

[EL FINANCIERO] What connections are there between the Mexican and Colombian cartels?

[Valle] Right now, the connections are basically with Cali. Before, Mexicans could not have cared less. "Medellin or Cali, I don't care. You just send me the merchandise and I'll pounce on it in a second." Now they care a little more. The strength of the Cali Cartel is overwhelming. The Rodriguez Orejuelas have been prudent enough not to be as violent as the late Pablo Escobar's people were in Colombia. Obviously, the more violent of them in Mexico are "El Guero" Palma and Juan Garcia Abrego. Needless to say, thanks to the Penal Code reforms of 10 January, Garcia Abrego has been charged for the first time. He has been accused of murdering a man in his twenties and a two-month old baby.

[EL FINANCIERO] How many deaths are attributed to him?

[Valle] There are about 35 in this charge. In other cases against the Gulf Cartel, there are, let me see, 150 or 200 murders. These are... I cannot define them. Do you understand what I am trying to say? I mean, you could say he killed out of interest; he killed for pleasure; he killed, I do not know, because he went mad. Not in this case. These are extremely dangerous people.

[EL FINANCIERO] Pedro Aspe Armella, secretary of finance and public credit, recently said in an article in PROCESO that the United States believes Mexico's security agencies are 100 percent infiltrated by drug trafficking.

[Valle] That is right. Don Pedro is right. I am so glad he admits it.

[EL FINANCIERO] What about Mexico's finances?

[Valle] Juan Garcia Abrego's cartel is worth $10 billion. Incidentally, they recently discovered an operation of his in the United States. Georges Novak, a genius of a U.S. prosecutor, seized $100 million of his, but Garcia managed to get away. Then he seized $60 million. In the end, Novak was able to confiscate $30 million. Just an anecdote, that is all.

[EL FINANCIERO] Getting back to the issue of the Colombian drug cartels, how did the "war between the cartels" affect the Mexicans?

[Valle] I insist: They did not really care. "You send me the stuff, and I will pick it up and pass it on."

[EL FINANCIERO] Did anyone do business with both Medellin and Cali?

[Valle] With both of them, yes. Amado Carrillo Fuentes and Juan Garcia Abrego are experts at that. Now they deal mostly with Cali.

[EL FINANCIERO] What about the Peruvian organization?

[Valle] It is growing and gaining importance.

[EL FINANCIERO] To what degree is drug trafficking generated by the market?

[Valle] As I said, after 1968 the Mexican police were selling marijuana to the middle classes. That is just for starters. Now, what happened when the Vietnam war people, who were directing strategies in Southeast Asia, took control of the narcotics bureaus in New York and other cities after the Kennedy assassination? What happened after the CIA started using drugs to finance the counterrevolutionary movements in Latin America? There you have a long story of perversion. The United States has an enormous responsibility in all of this.

Communications Satellite To Be Launched 4 Oct

PA0709173194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0324 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Sep (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government's communications satellite, Solidaridad 2, will be placed in orbit on 4 October from the Kourou Space Center in French Guiana, Mexican sources stated today.

The Mexican Communications and Transport Secretariat (CT) said the satellite will be shipped from the Hughes Factory in the United States to the launching pad in Kourou tomorrow, Monday.

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The launching of the satellite, the second of the Solidaridad system, will double Mexico's satellite capability as compared with what was available in 1993 and will allow the country to expand its communications services, such as rural telephone service.

Operation of Solidaridad 2 will strengthen the country's "educational television, which will be able to make use of the satellite network known as Edusat, as well as of satellite services for the transportation sector, especially designed for land, sea, and air transportation," the CT said.

Moreover, with the operation of the satellite, "more services will be provided to Central America, the Caribbean, and Venezuela," the CT stated.

Controls on Environmental Waste 'Practically Nonexistent'

PA0809182694 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Sep 94 p 20

[Report by correspondent David Carrizales]

[Text] Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, 6 Sept—Federal Environment Prosecutor Miguel Limon Rojas has asserted that Mexico will not allow the United States or Canada to resort to environmental issues to camouflage unfair trade practices.

On the other hand, Lilia Albert, vice president of the Toxicology Association (ALATOX), stressed that Mexican controls over the numerous kinds of hazardous industrial waste are practically nonexistent since most of the environmental laws are not being implemented.

During a meeting with ALATOX representatives, Limon Rojas pointed out that the Profepa [Office of the Federal Prosecutor for the Environment] will recommend that the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat earmark funds collected as environmental taxes to purchase more and improved antipollution equipment.

Since 1992, he stated, Profepa has ordered the complete shutdown of 227 companies, as well as the partial closure of 554 companies.

ALATOX specialist Lilia Albert pointed out at the International Symposium on Environmental Quality that the final destination of about 97 to 99 percent of all toxic waste in Mexico is unknown. There is also reliable data on storage or dump sites because authorities tend to overstate accomplishments and conceal shortcomings.

Albert believes that hazardous waste produced by national industries is possibly being stored, thrown away secretly, mixed with normal garbage, and, in the case of liquids, simply poured into drainage systems.

She indicated that she was aware of nearly 110 "authorized" secret dumps in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, as well as 35 in San Luis Potosi, all in abandoned urban areas. The ALATOX specialist added that throughout Mexico, only the Mina, Nuevo Leon dump is operating under normal conditions.

The ALATOX representative pointed out that since 1989, authorities have recognized that approximately 146 million tons of hazardous industrial waste is being produced annually in Mexico. Of this amount, 5 million tons have been classified as toxic. Albert warned that in any case the amounts made public do not coincide with Mexico's industrial production figures.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA0509164094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments in Mexico monitored through 5 September.

According to Japanese statistics, trade between Mexico and Japan has increased considerably since early 1990. Meanwhile, statistics show a rapid increase in imports from Japan, while Mexican exports declined. In 1993, the trade deficit rose to $2.888 billion dollars as Japanese imports increased to $3.961 billion and Mexican exports dropped to $1.073 billion. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 28 Aug 94 p 17)

The Mexican Stock Exchange has reported that the government's internal debt has reached 251.639 billion new pesos, which represents an increase of 63.7 percent over August 1993. The growth in the debt is mainly attributed to the Bank of Mexico increasing its sales of government securities by 322 percent. The report adds that foreign investors purchased government bonds in the amount of 85.397 billion new pesos, which represents 68 percent of all government securities now in circulation. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 30 Aug 94 p 43)

A report by the Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce has pointed out that a considerable number of small and medium-sized companies are at a standstill because of high liabilities, low levels of production and competitiveness, and deplorable marketing strategies. The report adds that there are approximately 2.658 million small and medium-sized businesses in Mexico, of which more than 1.11 million are product-oriented and more than 1 million are service-oriented. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 30 Aug 94 p 42)

Private sector analysts have reported that Mexico's trade deficit, which reached $8.859 billion in the first six months of 1994, reflects the lack of diversity in export products. According to the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat, the 1994 trade deficit is 26.8 percent higher than the deficit registered in the same period a year earlier. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 30 Aug 94 p 42)

Juan Gallardo, Mexico's coordinator for foreign trade business organizations, has reported that in the next few

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weeks Mexico, the United States, and Canada will open negotiations to speed up plans to eliminate tariffs on approximately 30 NAFTA products. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 31 Aug 94 p 21)

By the end of the year, Mexico will have its largest trade deficit ever, but businessmen claim there are suitable conditions for turning back this negative trend. From May to July, exports increased by 26 percent to $28 billion. Imports topped the $37 billion mark. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Aug 94)

Growing demands for gas are forcing Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) to draft a strategy capable of meeting these demands. Pedro Carlos Gomez, a PEMEX corporate official, has cautioned that in anticipation of large gas import costs Mexico should seek alternate sources of supply other than Texas. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 1 Sep 94 p 28)

During the first half of the year, Mexico exported $4.2 billion worth of oil. The price of petroleum is above the $18 a barrel level, which, according to PEMEX, is higher than budgetary forecasts. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Sep 94 p 45)

The decentralization of Mexico City International Airport began today. Communications and Transport Secretary Emilio Gamboa headed the ceremony initiating the transfer of general aviation from Mexico City International Airport to Adolfo Lopez Mateo International Airport in Toluca, Mexico State. (Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Sep 94)

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El Salvador

Calderon, Honduras' Reina on Haiti Invasion, Cuba

PA1109015094 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1920 GMT 10 Sep 94

[News conference by Salvadoran President Armando Calderon Sol and Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina with unidentified reporters at the Presidential Palace in San Salvador—live relay]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Regarding the situation in Cuba, I would like to know if your policy change to accept Cuban refugees, or the possibility thereof, is due to U.S. pressure? Does your country plan to reopen your borders to Cuba, as other countries in Central America are doing?

[Announcer] Now we have an issue of international policy, the Cuban refugee situation. This topic has been broadly discussed in Honduras. President Calderon Sol will now answer.

[Calderon, in progress] ...does not respond to any form of pressure from the United States. Our position on the Cuban refugees, which we have clearly presented in El Salvador, is the same position we held regarding the Haitian refugees. We have problems with displaced peasants. We have problems with reintegrating people into civilian life following the long civil war in El Salvador. We have a land shortage. We have a high demographic density rate, as all of America and the world know. We have national reconstruction problems.

We have also said that we have humanitarian feelings, and the Salvadoran people have expressed their solidarity with the needs of their brothers. If the situations in Haiti or Cuba deteriorate, we and our territory—small in size but large in heart-felt solidarity—will be present. That is why we have stayed abreast of the situations in Haiti and in Cuba and will continue to do so. If necessary, we will offer our territory to our Cuban brothers, who face the dangers of capsizing, if the need arises and if events should so require. That is what El Salvador has said, and we have done so without any form of pressure. We have done so in the spirit of solidarity of the Salvadoran people.

[Reina] Regarding the Cuban refugees, I would like to say that no state in the civilized world can deny a person the right to seek protection on a beach or on a border to save his or her life. No state in the civilized world can deny that right. That is why we spoke out in favor of receiving Haitian refugees—which did not happen—and receiving Cuban refugees. We have listened to the two sides of this issue, the Cubans in Miami and the Cubans in Cuba. We have not allowed ourselves to be pressured. We decided independently to facilitate the preservation of humanitarian rights, which is mandatory for the countries of the international community. That is our position, which is similar to that presented by the president of El Salvador.

[Announcer] That is the position of the Honduran Government, as described by President Carlos Roberto Reina here at the official presidential residence in San Salvador.

[Reporter] One more question about the Haitian situation. We would like to know if you share the same view in rejecting the plans announced by the United States to invade Haiti? Do you maintain your position regarding the invasion of Haiti, as announced by the United States?

[Calderon] We have clearly stated our position. We do not believe that a military invasion will solve the problems there. We have said that we believe in a peaceful resolution through diplomatic channels. Diplomats and international organizations can work together to solve the Haitian problem without having to resort to a military invasion.

[Reina] The Honduran Government has stated that we will not participate in the invasion of any country in America or of any other continent. We believe resolving the Haitian situation will favor democracy. If our country is called upon to aid in restoring democracy once the internal de facto situation has been resolved, Honduras would then consider and be willing to contribute to the peaceful restoration of democracy in that brother nation. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

National Assembly Meets To Discuss Seat for D. Ortega

Ramirez Ousted for Unauthorized Proposal

PA1109005394 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1518 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Managua, 10 Sep (ACAN - EFE)—The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) today expelled Sergio Ramirez, head of the leftist FSLN parliamentary bloc, from the National Assembly of Nicaragua as "punishment" for presenting a draft bill on constitutional reforms without the party's authorization.

The dismissal of the Sandinist parliamentary leader heightens the "symptom of division" within the party which was reflected during the extraordinary congress last May. The party governed Nicaragua from 1979 to 1990.

At least half of the 150 members of the Sandinist Assembly, the leading organization of the FSLN Directorate, resolved during a seven-hour session that Former President Daniel Ortega should occupy the parliamentary seat in the National Assembly.

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This means that Sergio Ramirez, leader of the Sandinist Renewal Movement, will have to leave the legislature because he was the alternate deputy for Ortega, who is also FSLN secretary general.

Ramirez will also be unable to be a member of the special parliamentary commission in charge of studying the draft constitutional reforms presented Friday to the plenary of the legislative assembly.

In first reactions to reporters, Ramirez, who is the author of 20 books, described as "ill-fated" the decision made the previous morning by the Sandinist Assembly, which is controlled by the "orthodox or Islamic" Sandinists.

Ramirez said punishment does not help consolidate Sandinist unity, as was argued by the assembly on approving his dismissal as head of a group of 39 Sandinist deputies, most of whom supported the proposed constitutional reforms that were presented.

In view of the fact that he heads a renewal movement within the FSLN, Ramirez was "purged" last May from the post of member of the FSLN National Directorate.

Ramirez, who continues to be a member of the Sandinist Assembly, did not attend the party's extraordinary meeting because, as he put it, "I was not going to attend my own expulsion."

Daniel Ortega, who agreed to abide by the party leadership's decision, seeks to become the head of the Sandinist parliamentary group after holding the seat of deputy.

At least 34 FSLN deputies disagree with Daniel Ortega's intentions because, as they have announced, they will elect Dora Maria Tellez as head of the Sandinist "wing." Tellez is one of the 15 members of the FSLN Directorate.

The Sandinist Assembly, which was called to analyze the deputies' rebellion, condemned the act but abstained for now from applying "administrative sanctions," which could well be a private or public reprimand or expulsion of the disobedient ones from the party.

The Sandinist Assembly was opposed to the presentation of the proposed reforms last Monday, arguing that authorities of the leftist political organization were unaware of its contents.

At the meeting which ended this morning, a report read before the assembly concluded that the draft presented at the parliament plenary is "substantially different" from the proposal drafted by the party in November of last year.

Ortega Gets Deputy Seat, Heads Bloc

PA1109173894 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Sep 94 pp 1, 8

[Report by Carlos F. Chamorro and Jorge Katin]

[Text] After seven hours of debate, the plenum of the Sandinist Assembly has decided that Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the party, will occupy his seat as deputy in the National Assembly and as head of the Sandinist bloc and will assume responsibility for negotiations with other parliamentary forces.

"As a Sandinist, I must abide by the resolution," Ortega said after the meeting during which Sergio Ramirez was removed as leader of the Sandinist parliamentary bloc.

The meeting was called to adopt a decision on the constitutional reforms introduced by the majority of the Sandinist Bloc in disobedience of a decision by the Sandinist Assembly. The Assembly censured and deplored the action but did not take any additional measures against the deputies.

A strong bloc of speakers proposed that the Assembly revoke the mandate of Deputy Dora Maria Tellez as a member of the National Directorate and those of Sergio Ramirez and Danilo Aguirre as members of the Sandinist Assembly. But the plenum rejected the motion.

Another group of speakers proposed the removal of BARRICADA Director Carlos Fernando Chamorro, while suggesting that the National Directorate assume "real leadership" of the newspaper, which, According to them, "does not now represent the party's interests."

It was finally decided that during the next 30 days the National Directorate will review the status of Sandinist media sources, particularly BARRICADA, and will submit a proposal to the Assembly.

Daniel Ortega arrived after the meeting had begun and did not actively participate in the debates. Also present were Tomas Borge, Rene Vivas, Rene Nunez, Bayardo Race, Monica Baltodano, Humberto Campbell, Dorotea Wilson, and Victor Tirado, who left the meeting at approximately 2200.

"I believe there is a clear division within the Sandinist forces but that there is still a chance to call for unity," Tirado said.

But he admitted that the party "is facing the worst crisis of unity since before the victory over the dictatorship.

"I believe the Congress made a mistake by giving so much authority to the Sandinist Assembly, which is still very young and does not have much experience," he stressed, even before the resolutions were issued.

One of the subjects most widely debated by the Assembly was the impact of Daniel Ortega's arrival as head of the Sandinist Bloc. According to Carlos Fonseca Teran, it will make no difference if only five deputies support the secretary general's mandate. "Those not supporting him will not be recognized as members of the Sandinist Bloc," he said.

Regarding divisions within the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], the majority accused Sergio Ramirez and the Sandinist Renewal Movement—which today called an open meeting at the UCA [Central

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American University]—of provoking the "division" and promoting parallel structures.

Ramirez Calls Decision 'Fatal'

PA1209031194 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Sep 94 p 8

[Article by Jorge Katin]

[Text] "These reprisals, these punishments do not help strengthen the unity of Sandinism, Dr. Sergio Ramirez said upon learning of the Sandinist Assembly's decision mandating that Commander Daniel Ortega occupy his post in the National Assembly and replace Ramirez.

Ramirez, who was the head of the Sandinist bloc until today, received the news at home, where he had been meeting with his closest relatives since the early evening.

Ramirez described the decision made by the highest body of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] directorate as "fatal" to party unity.

"I have no choice but to accept the decision, which will ultimately be up to Commander Ortega. When he decides to assume his post, I will hand it over immediately," Ramirez said.

"The party will have to elect a new head of the Sandinist bloc, and according to a majority of the members, it would be Dora Maria Tellez," he speculated.

According to Ramirez, "there are already clear signs of divisions within the bloc. A case in point occurred yesterday, when for the first time in four years three deputies were driven to challenge the decision presented as the Sandinist bloc's position.

"If they plan to form their little faction [bancadita], it would be a fatal, divisive attempt. I will tell Commander Tellez that her main mission should be to maintain unity within the bloc, and I am positive she will manage," Ramirez said.

Recalling his removal from the National Directorate following the FSLN Congress, he argued that "I have felt on several occasions this year the burden of political suppression for upholding positions that I still believe are fair."

Ramirez noted that he was "proud" of his work as head of the FSLN bloc and of his role as the leader of "that group of outstanding partners with whom we were able to overcome the unrelenting antagonism that hounded us during the first months of this government.

"The unity of the party should be above everything. These circumstances do not help at all. The downfall of the FSLN began when a majority sought to crush a minority. Disregarding the significance of unity by those representing the will of the majority was a mistake," Ramirez concluded.

Panama

Perez Balladares To Discuss Ending Blockade at Summit

PA0909221194 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2110 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Panama City, 9 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Shortly before boarding a private flight to Rio de Janeiro today to attend the eighth Rio Group summit, Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares announced that at that summit Panama will discuss the need to end the U.S. blockade against Cuba and the need for quick, democratic, and effective changes on the island.

Panama is being readmitted to the Rio Group after a six-year suspension from this political forum.

The president added that although Panama recognizes that this problem is between Cuba and the United States, it "is necessary to find a way to end the embargo and guarantee quick, effective changes leading to the establishment of a multiparty democracy in Cuban society."

"Moving simultaneously in both directions is the key to solving this conflict, and that is the position Panama will bring to the Rio Summit. We are making it public now to avoid misunderstandings," Perez Balladares said.

As for the talks between Cuba and the United States on the migration crisis of the Cuban rafters, Perez Balladares urged the two nations to continue their talks and work on the causes that are at the root of this conflict."

The Panamanian president also defended his decision to welcome 10,000 Cuban rafters as a humanitarian act in response to a U.S. request. He added that it was made through an agreement with the United States that is legally supported by the Canal treaties signed in 1977 by the two countries.

The Panamanian head of state traveled to Brazil with his wife, Dora Boyd, Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo, Special Ambassador Jorge Ritter, and Private Secretary Boris Moreno.

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Argentina

Minister Reconfirms No Participation in Haiti Invasion

PY0909212694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1513 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Sep (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion confirmed today that Argentina "will not participate" in a military operation involving the invasion of Haiti, but made it clear that at a later stage it might send "a group to carry out patrol tasks, and perhaps some doctors and engineers."

Camilion made these remarks at the military area of the metropolitan airport where he bade farewell to 15 Air Force officers and NCO's who will serve in Cyprus for the UN peace forces.

With regard to an impending U.S. landing in Haiti, as gathered from international reports, the defense minister again clarified the stance that Argentina will take.

The defense minister pointed out: "Two frigates are currently participating in the blockade of Haiti. Within the next six months, however, one of them will return and the other one will remain in the area."

Camilion confirmed that Argentina "will not participate" in the military operation, if it is carried out, and made it clear that if "circumstances advise it, a group for police operations and perhaps some doctors and engineers might be sent at a later stage."

During the Rio Group summit, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella explained: "It does not involve intervention in Haiti because it is a multilateral, and not a bilateral, effort with UN support."

'Contradictory Remarks' From Ministers on Cuban Refugees

PY1009012394 Buenos Aires Telefe LS84 Television Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Regarding the issue of the Cuban rafters, we have heard contradictory remarks from cabinet ministers. It has been said Argentina will receive Cuban citizens who wanted to leave their country. Let us hear what Defense Minister Oscar Camilion and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said about the issue.

[Begin recording] [Camilion] I think these people could make a very interesting group. It will be a good contribution. It is in the best Argentine tradition to give a hand to a people in need.

[Unidentified reporter] Is your ministry preparing to receive them?

[Camilion] No. I do not think the issue falls within the Defense Ministry's jurisdiction.

[Di Tella] The president said we would consider asylum on a case by case basis. He thus referred to cultural and sports delegations who in the past requested asylum and were granted it, and to other similar cases. We have never spoken about opening the country to immigration the way it is described in the papers. That is just not true.

[Reporter] What is the Argentine position over Cuba?

[Di Tella] The Cuban issue has two parts. First we have the issue of the U.S. embargo. We consider it useless. While it is not the cause of the problem, it seems to be. Castro uses the excuse of the embargo and the United States fares very badly. We think the Torricelli amendment is nonsense. Cuban problems were invented by Cubans, they can purchase everything they cannot buy in the United States in Canada, Europe, and everywhere else in the world. Cuba needs a reasonably sensible economic administration and a democratic political opening. Cuba is lost without it. [end recording]

Brazil

Six Cuban Rafters Arrive in Santos; Two Die at Sea

PY1009035794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 1933 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By Jose Rodrigues]

[Excerpt] Santos, 9 Sep (AE)—The ordeal of a group of Cubans who had sailed on a fragile raft from the Pinar del Rio beach on 9 August came to an end at 1045 today when six survivors, after disembarking from the Liberian ship Aniara, stepped on the Brazilian mainland. They were immediately taken to Federal Police quarters for questioning. The survivors said that two rafters died during the journey: Seven-year-old Rodolfo Diaz and 25-year-old Francisco Reyes, who were fatally attacked by sharks five days after they left Cuba. [passage omitted]

Stepanenko Discusses PRC's Three Gorges Project

PY0709175494 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Alexis Stepanenko today held meetings in Beijing with members of the PRC Government. He discussed the participation of Brazilian companies in the construction of the first stage of the Three Gorges hydroelectric project in the PRC.

Minister Stepanenko also signed an agreement contemplating exchange of technology in the field of petrochemicals and oil drilling in deep water by the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation.

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Japanese Foreign Minister Interviewed on World Issues

PY0709171494 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Sep 94 p 20

[Interview with Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono by Berilo Vargas at the Caesar Park Hotel in Sao Paulo on 1 September]

[Text] [Vargas] The West preaches free initiative and world commerce on a global basis. What are the Japanese Government programs for deregulating the economy and for further opening the market to foreign products?

[Kono] It is necessary to understand that Japan has substantially opened its market. We could even say our market is more open than U.S. or European markets. Japan's tariffs are the lowest in the world. Only a few people know this. But we are willing to further deregulate the economy. Japanese families currently have fewer children and the number of old people is rapidly increasing. By 2025, 25 percent of the Japanese population will be older than 65. It is important to create opportunities for new undertakings in order to create jobs. Deregulation is one of those possible measures. Over the next five years, the government will actively promote deregulation. We have already instructed ministries to prepare their respective plans. To harmonize the world economy, we think it is possible to simultaneously implement deregulation and adopt measures for increasing domestic demand.

[Vargas] Is there domestic pressure for a more active Japanese leading role at a regional and at an international level? Does the government know how to play that leading role?

[Kono] Right after the beginning of his government term, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama attended a G-7 meeting—of the world's more developed countries—in Naples. I attended a meeting of Asian foreign ministers. On 31 August I met with the foreign ministers of the Rio Group troika (Chile, Brazil, and Ecuador). At these meetings I realized that the international desire for a more active Japanese role has grown rapidly. To meet those expectations we are determined to play a more active international role. For example, in the areas of weapon rejection and nonproliferation, humanitarian support, and in operations to maintain peace. Japan is determined to honor its international responsibilities in those areas. We have actively engaged in talks on reforming the United Nations, submitting proposals. I believe the main topic is the reform of the Security Council. During this visit, I heard Brazilian and Chilean representatives say Japan could be a permanent member of the Security Council, of the new Security Council, obviously with vetoing power. We want to continue to analyze the matter, considering international opinions and also Japanese domestic opinions.

[Vargas] What are Japan's expectations over the Brazilian elections and the new economic plan?

[Kono] I have been informed that there will be presidential elections in October. We would like to continue to have friendly relations with Brazil, with the new government that the people will elect. Brazilian authorities informed me during this visit that the real plan is doing fine. Brazil already has the possibility, the potential to achieve economic development. We believe that if Brazil manages to lower inflation and maintain last year's high growth rate, trade with Japan will be even more dynamic.

[Vargas] Japan is organizing itself, through a special committee, to commemorate the centennial of diplomatic relations with Brazil. Has your government found the same interest in Brazilian authorities?

[Kono] Preparations for the centennial of Brazilian-Japanese friendship are going fine in Japan. I have been told they are fine in Brazil too. This is obvious because of the very large community of Japanese descendants (1.3 million) in Brazil. In Brasilia, I had a chance to meet with President Itamar Franco, Foreign Minister Celso Amorim, and Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero. At each of those meetings we talked about the centennial of Japanese-Brazilian friendship. I saw they share the same interest. They promised to cooperate. My visit to Brazil is the first by a Japanese foreign minister in nine years. I can see that democracy and the opening and liberalization of the economy are being consolidated in Latin America. Brazil and Japan are 18,500 km apart and their time zone difference is of 12 hours. Information is rapidly transmitted thanks to technological developments. We might take advantage of such development to promote trade between the two countries in various sectors, not just soccer.

Adjustments to Workers Party Campaign Viewed

PY0609154394 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 24 Aug 94 pp 1, 5

[Article by Claudia Safatle]

[Text] Overwhelmed by the real, the PT [Workers Party] has lost its way. The PT leadership met once again in Sao Paulo on 23 August to design a new campaign strategy for presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. PT economist Guido Mantega told this newspaper: "We are not against the stabilization of the economy: On the contrary, the end of inflation is a priority. Our enemies portray us as being against stability. If we cannot erase that image, we are doing something wrong."

A Getulio Vargas Foundation professor in Sao Paulo, with a USP [Sao Paulo University] doctor's degree, Mantega, 45, is a member of the group of influential PT economists who designed Lula's program.

The party leadership now wants to clarify Lula's economic proposals in an effort to revert the performance of the candidate, whose rating has steeply dropped in electoral polls.

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There are coincidences in the diagnosis of the economic crisis and even in the formulation of some solutions, between the PT and the program of Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the candidate of the PSDB/PFL/PTB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party/Liberal Front Party/ Brazilian Labor Party] coalition.

PT economists are not against privatization. They do not want state enterprises sold for very low prices. They agree to partnerships with the private sector without affecting the state monopoly in strategic areas like petroleum and telecommunications. They do not seek to "evade" paying the domestic debt and are not planning to renegotiate a problem that has already been resolved: the restructuring of the foreign debt owed to private creditors. Eduardo Mattoso, 44, a Rio Grande do Sul professor of macroeconomics and labor economics at the Unicamp [Campinas State University], explained that "respect for contracts" will be the foundation of a possible PT government. Matoso is also a member of the selected group that designed the PT program.

The PT advocates the creation of a national chamber for managing price, salary, utility rates, and interest policies, which the party sees as the way to curb inflation. PT economists believe 15 to 20 percent is an overly optimistic estimate of the inflation rate between 1 July and 31 December. If they are proved correct, this will pressure prices, salaries, and the exchange rate. The chamber, which will be an expanded version of the sectorial chamber that led to agreement in the car manufacturing sector, will be the channel for negotiating an income policy to establish future adjustment indexes during the first days of an eventual PT government.

Matosso said: "We believe the real plan has several limitations and that its transformation into a long-range stabilization plan depends on incorporation of three variables." They are: 1) a broad national negotiation process over an income policy; 2) structural, constitutional, and infrastructure reforms like, for example, reforms in labor relations and changes in the Consolidated Labor Laws (CLT) to permit collective bargaining negotiations; 3) the creation of conditions for private investment and definition of an industrial policy with reduced market barriers and with more exposure to the international market.

The PT believes the constitutional reform will have to deal with problems like modifications in the taxation structure and in the Social Security financing mechanism. The party, however, does not like the idea of separating social security benefits from minimum salary variations or ending public servant stability.

There are major shades in the evaluation of the fiscal imbalance. Mantega believes the fiscal imbalance is caused by interest on the domestic debt, and that it is not the factor that makes inflation grow. He claims that "neoliberals reduce social expenses in the budget and increase interest rates," adding that this leads nowhere because, in the opinion of the PT, the "distribution conflict" is the cause of inflation. The PT claims the real plan tackled the inertia of inflation but did not touch that conflict. Inspired by the experience of Spain and Israel, the PT wants to resolve the conflict between prices and salaries through negotiation.

Mantega said national negotiating chambers could issue guidelines for industrial group chambers to work out agreements within the productive chain by asking entrepreneurs to reduce their profit margins, the government to reduce taxes, and workers to postpone their salary demands. Rules for a gradual recovery of the purchasing power of salaries, price reduction, and production increase would also be established. Oligopolies and other economic groups that violate these parameters will be subjected to price controls and other penalties such the elimination of existing subsidies, credit cutbacks, and creation of a "black list" to suspend them even from the list of state suppliers.

PT economists want to combine policies to fight inflation, encourage growth (expanding supply and demand simultaneously), and better distribute incomes. They admit that the implementation of this program will be difficult but not impossible if a good negotiating apparatus is installed.

Mantega and Mattose guaranteed that they never contemplated defaulting on the internal debt—as mentioned by Gustavo Franco, Central Bank external area director during a recent interview with the PSDB candidate's campaign committee. They said: "The internal debt is small compared to the gross domestic product. The problem lies with interest rates and periods," adding: "The debt is a problem because of inflation and interest rates." The problem will disappear with low inflation rates and, consequently, lower interest rates differentiated according to the repayment periods.

Mantega and Mattose are not thinking about any renegotiation of the foreign debt with private creditors because contracts have already being signed and terms approved by the Federal Senate. The economists mentioned, however, that the negotiation of the Brazilian debt with the Paris Club—which is still pending—may be more difficult under a PT administration. They added that this debt must be renegotiated if the country again becomes a capital exporter.

Chile

Current, Future Trade With Cuba Evaluated

PY0909174494 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p C2

[Text] A significant flow of Chilean investments has gone to Cuba since the resumption of consular relations in 1991 during the Ibero-American Summit in Mexico, after 18 years without diplomatic relations.

According to the Planning Directorate of the Chilean Foreign Ministry, Chilean investment in Cuba is close to

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$50 million, and over 15,000 Chileans have visited Cuba for tourism, trade, and health treatment in the last two years.

The two governments hope the exchange will increase after the signing of a reciprocal investment promotion and protection agreement that is being negotiated.

In 1991 trade reached $11 million with a balance favoring Chile.

But from 1992 to 1993 trade was reduced to $4.7 million due to the price increase in Chilean black beans and sea freight problems.

The interest of Chilean investors was shown by the fact that as of 1991 business meetings have been held to increase exchange and to overcome the low sales.

The main offer is in mining, tourism, and light industry, said Cuban Consul General Humberto Hernandez.

There are also possibilities for joint ventures in biotechnology. In this regard, steps are being taken to register in Chile some of the products of the Cuban pharmaceutical industry.

Chilean investments have concentrated on the export of fruits and foods to Cuba, and also on tourism and banking. There are also Chilean interests in citrus fruits, shoes, textiles, and light industry.

This trade is supported by Cuban legislation which guarantees the repatriation of capital and profits.

Within this context, an announcement was made last May of the signing of a cooperation agreement with Cuba, and the approval by the Chilean State Bank of a special $10 million line of credit for the Cuban National Bank favoring Chilean producers who want to sell their products on the Cuban market.

Chilean commercial activities in Cuba are within the framework of the rapprochement toward Latin America made by the Havana government, which was ratified by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, during the Cartagena de Indias Summit last April. Melendez said that his country is implementing a process of economic change to attract investments and new trade partners and link with hemispheric integration.

Melendez said that Cuba would continue its economic reforms to attract investments and increase trade with Latin America, after having lost its main partners with the disruption of the socialist bloc.

During that summit Melendez also said: "It should be taken into account that the traditional markets in the socialist world consumed about 80 percent of our market, both imports and exports."

Despite this process, said Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina on 22 August, this does not mean a free market system, but the development of a Cuban model.

The Chilean-Cuban bilateral contacts also covered other areas. For example, a cooperation agreement between the Santiago Regional Council of the Medical Association and the Carlos Finlay Institute of Havana will take advantage of Cuban scientific and sanitation experience.

The contacts also include the presence of sports leaders and athletes last March and April in Havana to participate in the First International Conference of Highly Demanding Sports, and the agreement between the International Movie and Television School of Cuba and the Association of Movie and Television Producers of Chile for the granting of scholarships for Chilean youth to study in Cuba.

There is also an increasing activity by the Cuban community in our country, especially in Santiago.

According to the Immigration Department of the Interior Ministry, there are 645 Cubans living in Chile. But unofficially this figure would be about 2,500, many of them without documents.

Student Violence Breaks Out in Santiago

PY1009214794 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Excerpts] University student groups today promoted violent incidents in three Santiago university centers. At least 20 people were arrested. The Interior Ministry has submitted an injunction for violations to the state security law against one student from the former Teachers School.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] As of 1400, violent student incidents simultaneously erupted on Grecia and Macul streets, at the Blas Canas Institute, and at the University of Chile [USACH] in Santiago.

The most serious incidents, however, occurred at the USACH, where demonstrators, the majority of whom were wearing hoods, set up road blocks on Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue and other streets near the university. Carabineros were compelled to intervene because students set up bonfires and cut off traffic using various implements. In view of the situation, Carabineros decided to enter the USACH campus, where at least 10 people were arrested.

General Luis Pulgar, Carabineros deputy chief for the Metropolitan region, and Colonel Jorge Bravo, prefect for the Western Metropolitan region, went to inspect the site of the incidents. Bravo was injured when a rock was hurled at him. The same thing happened to two other Carabineros, who had to be rushed to the Carabineros hospital. Incidents at the USACH lasted until approximately 2000.

Moreover, Carabineros had to go to the Carmen and Curico area, where the Blas Canas Institute is located. From inside the building, demonstrators hurled all kinds of sharp objects onto the street, interrupting traffic. Six

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people were arrested in view of these incidents. Calm returned when students left the institute. [passage omitted]

More incidents broke out this afternoon on Grecia and Macul streets. These were promoted by a group of demonstrators who had sought refuge at the former Teachers School and Philosophy School. Mauricio Araya Concalves, 21 years of age, a former Teachers School student, was arrested on charges of hurling a molotov cocktail at Carabineros and for carrying seven molotov cocktails in a bag.

Today, the Interior Ministry submitted an injunction against Araya for violating the state security law. It will also file suits against those responsible for similar actions. In addition, the Interior Ministry has warned that if incidents in universities continue, it may enforce the antiterrorist law. [end recording]

Explosions, Protests, Parades Mark Coup Anniversary

Blackouts in Santiago

PA1109163394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1451 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 11 Sep (EFE)—Several bomb explosions in various parts of the Chilean capital have caused blackouts in many areas of Santiago.

The blowing-up of a pylon and short circuits provoked by chains thrown at electrical lines left important areas of the Chilean capital in the dark.

Similar actions occurred in other parts of the country, such as Temuco, 673 kilometers south of Santiago, where authorities found propaganda of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR), an extreme leftist armed organization.

Homemade bombs also exploded in a downtown business, injuring three people.

Bomb threats caused the evacuation of the Armed Forces Building, across the street from Palacio de la Moneda, and the Sheraton Hotel.

Vast security measures were implemented early this morning with the closing of an extensive perimeter around the downtown area where the march to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the coup d'etat that ousted President Salvador Allende will be staged.

Despite government calls for a peaceful demonstration, a powerful police operation will keep an eye on it to try to avoid any problems.

The organizers requested that the march to the General Cemetery, where Allende's remains were buried, be allowed to go by the eastern side of Palacio de la Moneda, where the Morande 80 entrance, regularly used by Allende in 1973, used to be. This entrance is now blocked off.

At 1000 (1600 GMT), approximately 100 people, members of the Socialist Youth and relatives of Allende, will place flowers on the former Morande 80 entrance.

A half hour later, a commemorative mass will be held at the presidential palace. This mass will be presided over by socialist German Correa, interior minister and acting vice president.

The beginning of the demonstration convoked by human rights groups and leftist organizations will also begin at 1000 (1600 GMT).

Meanwhile, this morning, former military ruler and Army commander General Augusto Pinochet received the greetings of Army generals and leaders of the National Renewal Party and Independent Democratic Union Party, the two rightist opposition parties.

At noon, Pinochet will attend a thanksgiving mass, which will culminate in a parade at the Military Academy.

On 11 September 1973, a military junta, headed by Pinochet, overthrew Allende, who was killed during the bombing of Palacio de la Moneda.

Police, Demonstrators Clash

PA1109213494 Paris AFP in Spanish 2045 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Santiago, 11 Sep (AFP)—The Chilean police used water cannons to disperse hundreds of leftists who tried to advance upon the center of Santiago after visiting the tomb of former President Salvador Allende on Sunday afternoon to mark the 21st anniversary of the military coup that overthrew him. During the clash the demonstrators stoned police lines, tried to block traffic, and shattered windows of several stores and businesses. Approximately 30 protesters were arrested before peace was restored, eyewitnesses reported.

The government of President Eduardo Frei authorized the passage of a column of Allende followers to the cemetery but established no-entry zones to prevent protesters from approaching La Moneda Palace in the heart of Santiago, where Allende committed suicide during the military assault on power led by General Augusto Pinochet, current Army commander in chief.

The 78-year-old Pinochet received homage today from armed corps and rightist politicians.

Pinochet Announces Army Modernization Plan

PY0909192394 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 Aug 94 pp C1-C6

[Text] Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet yesterday stressed the respect and cordiality the government shows toward the defense area. He said this good atmosphere should continue to reign and grow for the benefit of the country.

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Pinochet said it is essential for a modern armed institution to fulfill its tasks regardless of any temporary circumstances. He added that it should rely on a permanent defense policy as defined by authorities who are advised by military experts, and "who are not conditioned by ideologies or political parties which may influence their criteria."

Pinochet made this statement during a lecture yesterday at noon at the Military School within the framework of the celebrations to commemorate the Month of the Army.

He broached the issue of the modernization of the Army and outlined the main guidelines of a plan drafted to this effect by the Army Staff entitled "Alcazar."

Opening the Month of the Army at the Military School on the evening of 18 August, President Eduardo Frei noted the Army's important contribution to national development.

Gen. Pinochet yesterday reasserted the Army's willingness to cooperate in the country's development, adding that the Army should be a state organization at the service of society which, together with the other Armed Forces branches, safeguards order at the national level within the new political strategy context.

Pinochet added that it is appropriate to definitely abandon thoughts of isolating the Armed Forces. He said that armies are functional structures "with the only role of defending the nation. Chilean history is characterized by the presence of the military since the birth of the Nation."

He said it is essential for officials to continue to be respectful and discreet regarding national defense and security activities. He added that this implies that the executive branch must promote the Army's prestige and image.

He said: "It is very important to definitely resolve situations that spoil the atmosphere and undermine good communications."

Pinochet asserted that the stability of the country depends on basic institutions, and that in view of this "it is always right to improve their image at the national and international levels."

He said the Army's modernization cannot be separated from the state because the Army "is part of a politically and juridically organized country. There must be a strict interdependence between the Army and the other elements of society and the state. This is to be achieved on the basis of an awareness of their respective roles and mutual respect of the mandate that each must fulfill in compliance with the laws."

Pinochet believes the "Alcazar" plan is part of an integral national modernization plan that will be implemented between 1994 and 2010.

To enable the process to be implemented in an orderly, coherent, and continuous manner, and to be financially feasible, Pinochet said it has been divided in two periods: One from 1994 to 1997; and the other from 1998 to 2010.

The plan encompasses three well-defined goals:

To modernize the different Army components that are necessary and feasible both in time and money, which will establish the basis for the modernization process. Some of these are already being implemented;

To draft, with the required time and coordination, large projects and studies that will outline the main transformations encompassed within the Army's modernization program; and,

To create the best possible conditions for consolidating specific modernization projects to be conducted between now until 1997; to assess and approve large studies and projects to be drafted; to supply, generate, and plan long-term Army resources; and, finally, to coordinate with the national modernization plan the implementation of an informative process to obtain the support of the citizens and to effectively obtain the required political support.

Pinochet reported that the Alcazar Plan outlines 34 basic objectives:

The series of basic projects outlined are: the restructuring of the Army faculty system; efficient personnel management and quantification; training and instruction; reorganization of mandatory military service; structuring for the Army of the future; integral military equipment; military structures and their locations; welfare support for personnel; integral logistic support; computer science; institutional research and development; institutional ties with society and state; and Army foreign ties.

Pinochet stressed that this important institutional project does not necessarily imply spending more resources than have been allotted by law or an increase in Army personnel.

He insisted that this is a rational and creative restructure and renewal process.

The Army commander stated that some of the projects included in the modernization plan had to be implemented ahead of schedule.

Among them he mentioned that it was decided to continue with the Magister [not further identified] program both at the War Academy and the Military Polytechnic Academy. Moreover, 1994 Military School courses were extended to a fifth year which, he said, will improve the initial academic instruction of future officers.

Pinochet said a seminar on "The Conquest of Interior Borders: An Army Task" was held in July. He added that

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this seminar enabled the Army to discuss a geopolitical project that may have an impact on national development.

Within the operational framework, Pinochet stated that the establishment of the Army Air Brigade had to be anticipated and that a Special Force Brigade comprising parachutists and commandos was reorganized.

Moreover, the Army Women Service was restructured and now women have been fully incorporated to the Army.

As of 1995, women officer candidates will enter the Military School and noncommissioned officer candidates will enter the Noncommissioned Officers School.

In his analysis, Pinochet said the need for a dissuasive Army is still prevalent and coherent with the development program being drafted based on the situations that may affect Chile and its neighbors.

In view of this, he said: "Some people's plans to transform the Armed Forces into a sort of international police institution is not applicable for Chile. Similarly, and in a completely utopian manner, some continue to insist on an arms reduction. Neither position is in keeping with Chilean reality and future prospects but it is intrinsic to human nature to surpass ourselves under certain situations."

Colombia

Minister Rejects U.S. Envoy's Remarks on Dismantling Cali Cartel

PA1109040494 Paris AFP in Spanish 0127 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 10 Sep (AFP)—Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Pardo today commented on statements made by Myles Frechette, U.S. ambassador to Colombia, who demanded that the Colombian Government dismantle the Cali cocaine cartel.

Pardo told Emisoras Caracol in Santa Fe de Bogota that the government of Colombian President Ernesto Samper is autonomous in the fight against drug traffickers.

Pardo rejected Frechette's statements, arguing that the Samper administration had fully committed itself to handling any actions to dismantle the Cali Cartel (operating in western Colombia) and to capture its capos.

Pardo explained that Colombians are determined to wage a war against this crime, but he emphasized that Colombia "has its own policies."

"The government has a very clear policy, which is to seek the reduction of drug trafficking, not in response to a request by a government or a group of governments but in response to one of the national government's convictions," he noted.

He also described U.S. cooperation with Colombia in the fight against drug trafficking as good.

Government Announces New Human Rights Policy

PA1109164494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Report by Raul Gutierrez from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The Colombian Government has radically changed its human rights policy, which from now on will be one of its main priorities and must be strictly complied with. The new guidelines are drawn up in 10 points, based on recommendations by international organizations.

The Police and Army are the two leading institutions charged with violating human rights in Colombia. A report from the Attorney General's Office on cases registered last year shows 363 homicides, 234 tortures, and 14 massacres attributed to members of both institutions.

Why have we reached these levels? Presidential Human Rights Adviser Carlos De Roux gave us his opinion.

[Begin recording] We live in an extremely violent country, with very high levels of dispersed social violence. Colombians are killing each other for the most trivial reasons. [end recordingng]

Pressured by the EU and the United States, who have conditioned economic aid and credits to a revision of the policy for the protection of human rights, today the government took a step forward and announced its new code.

According to the new policy, the UN rapporteur for torture will visit Colombia; the conflict with the guerrillas cannot be an excuse for violations; more support will be given to judges and more protection to witnesses in order to end impunity; paramilitary groups will be eradicated, as will the voluntary surrender of their members; police reforms will be revised; genocide and child abuse will be considered crimes; and the doors will be open to individuals and organizations for the defense of human rights, and their reports and recommendations will be accepted without any arguments.

[Begin De Roux recording] The objective is not defending cases before international organizations, but having no more cases of violations of human rights in Colombia. [end recording]

But the plan omitted one subject: it did not mention disappearances that are mainly attributed to state agents.

Further on Human Rights Issue

PA1109171994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Report by Juan Eduardo Jaramillo from the "National Newscast"—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

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[Text] The government is facing up to the issue of human rights. For the first time, the government has decided to set aside the topic of international image and excuses to tackle the problem. The International Overseer's Office, the war on impunity, and the peace process are some of the instruments available to fight human rights abuses. Here is Juan Eduardo Jaramillo with a report:

[Jaramillo] In a 10-point message read by Government Minister Horacio Serpa Uribe, the national government reasserted its commitment to make the defense of human rights a reality in Colombia and to make impunity a priority.

[Serpa] "First, we are facing a case of generalization of criminal demeanors that overwhelms the responsive capacity of the jurisdictional system."

[Jaramillo] The National Police will be partly responsible for the security of citizens.

[Serpa] "The government will begin a review of the process to reform the National Police."

[Jaramillo] All groups operating on the fringes of the law will be eradicated.

[Serpa] "The ill-named paramilitarism is closely linked to the territoriality of a certain portion of the drug capitals, and this undermines the state's legitimate control over the forces."

[Jaramillo] The government will intervene directly in other aspects of this topic.

[Serpa] "We will promote the classification of crimes like genocide and child abuse."

[Jaramillo] In its message, the government stated that the mayors and governors should assume police duties and should never remain on the sidelines when it comes to security plans.

Samper Sets New Guidelines for Peace Policy

PA1109034694 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Sep 94 pp 1, 7A

[Text] President Ernesto Samper established new guidelines for his peace policy. "We will not give one inch to violent groups because they must know that our willingness for reconciliation does not imply weakness," the president said at a ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the daily VANGUARDIA LIBERAL.

"We will be as firm as we are open to a political solution, if this is permanent," the president added. His statements yesterday coincided with three events: the installation of a peace commission at the Senate; the letter Alfonso Cano, a member of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] Directorate, addressed to Roberto Posada, the author of a column in this daily; and a letter that EPL [Popular Liberation Army] leader Francisco Caraballo addressed to Congress.

Among other things, Cano said that "everyone is fed up with violence;" that "if a new process is initiated, we will do everything in our power for a happy conclusion;" and that they are sure "that the president will find a way to give every guarantee for a first meeting."

Nevertheless, he adds that "so far, all we have heard is the defense minister (...) preaching about a new military offensive."

Meanwhile, Samuel Moreno, coordinator of the Senate Peace Commission, presented six points for achieving peace.

In the midst of announcements by guerrilla groups of their willingness to engage in a dialogue and the willingness of Congress and the church to contribute to a possible process, President Ernesto Samper yesterday outlined his peace policy.

"Our immediate task will be to assure the state's legitimate monopoly of force through its Armed Forces and to develop an effective national intelligence system to prevent violence," the president said.

He added: "We will not give one inch to violent groups because they must know that our willingness for reconciliation does not imply weakness."

Samper spoke last night during the 75th anniversary of VANGUARDIA LIBERAL in Bucaramanga, where he paid an emotional homage to Alejandro Galvis Galvis, journalist and founder of the daily.

"Following Don Alejandro's example, we will be as firm as we are open to a political solution, if this is permanent. We will be as relentless in the defense of human rights as we are in the search for peace, as we have demonstrated with the measures taken in the past days and by the insistence that Congress approved the Second Geneva Protocol."

The president added that "peace will not be enough if the countryside is not recovered and social investment increased so more Colombians can benefit from the economic opening. With the recently adopted measures, we are going to make way for the Colombian countryside as a prerequisite for the consolidation of reconciliation."

Samper also made several announcements for Santander Department, among them the following:

Over 8,000 jobs will be generated through the Fundewilches Foundation.

The Cucuta-Bucaramanga highway will be built through Escorial heights, thereby reducing the distance between the two cities and facilitating the region's integration with the Venezuelan states of Tachira and Merida.

Technical studies to connect Bucaramanga with the Magdalena highway will be stepped up.

The Rio Sogamoso hydroelectric plant will be built with the support and participation of private investors.

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The Bucaramanga-Ocana-Cucuta line will be built and is scheduled to begin functioning in December.

The Eastern Colombia Power Company will be created with the participation of Santander, Norte de Santander, Arauca, Casanare and Boyaca.

All of these initiatives will be included in the development plan the government presents to Congress for consideration during the first few months of 1995.

Samper Denies Guerrillas Political Prisoner Status

PA1209025294 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 8 Sep 94 p 5A

[From the "Political Periscope" column by Carlos Murcia]

[Text] President Ernesto Samper Pizano categorically rejected the possibility that guerrilla leaders who are currently under arrest will be granted the status of political prisoners, thus denying a recent request made by Francisco Galan from his prison in Santa Fe de Bogota.

The president did not, however, reject the possibility that should the appropriate conditions exist, they may later receive the status of negotiators or spokesmen once the 100-day period set by the government to determine if the guerrillas are truly willing to make peace has expired.

The Executive Branch, through President Samper, Peace Commissioner Carlos Holmes Trujillo, and Government Minister Horacio Serpa, has stated categorically that Colombia will not acknowledge the existence of political prisoners, with the international status that would involve.

FARC Secretariat Presents New Peace Proposal

PA1109193294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Sep 94

[From the "Cripton Newscast"]

[Text] A new peace proposal has been presented to the government by the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] Secretariat through Tolima Governor Ramiro Lozano Neira.

[Begin Lozano Neira recording] The FARC's message simply asks for measures for peace. In other words, it could be through dialogue. [end recording]

National Liberation Army Message Favors Peace Talks

PA0909163094 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Sep 94 p A-7

[Text of National Liberation Army communique sent to Colombian Peace Commissioner Carlos Holmes Trujillo on 24 August; place not given]

[Text] Prior to his assuming the Presidency, we advised Mr. Samper of our willingness to hold talks: We want peace and are willing to talk at a convenient time.

Regrettably, the government that had just assumed power has not proposed anything important to further the peace process, and several of its representatives have exhibited inconsistencies in keeping their promises of previous peace processes.

We regret the death of Senator Manuel Cepeda very much and make the government responsible for this event.

We demand that the comrades who are arrested and kept in cellars, garrisons, and top security jails be given the treatment afforded to prisoners of war.

We hope the government will disclose its true position on the issue, because one of our negotiators, Francisco Galan, is under arrest. This arrest does not imply, however, his functions will be changed.

For our part, we are cautious of the government's potential to offer political and security guarantees to hold a dialogue, but we most certainly favor making the necessary efforts to further this end.

[Signed] Manuel Perez Martinez

Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista

Antonio Garcia

24 August 1994

Government Responds to ELN Faction Letter on Peace Talks

PA0909200894 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 6 Sep 94 p 7A

[Text] The national government yesterday officially responded to a letter sent by the Camilist Union of the Army of National Liberation (UC-ELN) to High Commissioner for Peace Carlos Holmes Trujillo, stating its willingness to negotiate.

In a four-paragraph communique, the government said it also is willing to negotiate, but it added that conditions to guarantee a beneficial dialogue need to be explored. The communique issued by Narino Palace around noon was read several hours later by Peace Commissioner Carlos Holmes Trujillo:

"The open letter signed by Manuel Perez Martinez, Nicolas Rodriguez Bautista, and Antonio Garcia contained aspects that could allow the advancement of an eventual negotiating process, because the UC-ELN stated its willingness to hold talks in due time.

"For the dialogue to be successful, it is necessary to create conditions for a permanent and lasting peace and whose foundations are a true determination for achieving peace and everyone's willingness to accept his share of sacrifice.

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"The complexity of the situation requires that, without preconceived notions, we continue to cautiously and decidedly move forward with the exploratory task and with the summoning of civilian society, which will make it possible for us to identify the right time to ensure that any negotiations will indeed be beneficial.

"By the same token, we believe the resolve to contribute in the search for political solutions, as stated by Francisco Caraballo in the letter he recently sent to the high commissioner for peace, is positive."

Before reading the communique, one of Holmes Trujillo's advisers warned journalists that the peace commissioner would not answer any questions. However, after he finished reading, Holmes Trujillo agreed to answer one question. In response to a question on the government's assessment of the UC-ELN's request that Francisco Galan serve as spokesman in any future talks, Holmes replied that the government's assessment was contained in the communique he had just read.

He said: "The communique is specific, because it contains aspects that will allow us to make progress in a future process, taking into consideration the statements that this communique contains. I think this is a very important aspect of the government communique of which you have just become aware."

He completed his reply as he spoke about the case of Galan, a UC-ELN ideologue arrested in December 1992: "The circumstances surrounding his arrest are being studied."

It was made known yesterday that the High Commissioner's Office is gathering documents to determine the viability of the request to grant prisoner-of-war status to Galan and other UC-ELN members currently being held, as demanded by guerrilla group's most recent letter. The guerrilla organization's open letter confirmed the news that Father Perez had decided to split from the Domingo Lain

Paraguay

Spain's Prime Minister Visits

Economic Accord Signed

PY0909000494 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Sep 94 p 8

[Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez this morning signed a document establishing an overall program for economic and financial cooperation between Spain and Paraguay. The program includes credits worth 20 billion pesetas, the promotion of investments, and more entrepreneurial contacts between the two nations.

The document, signed at Government House, has five points. In one of them, Spain places at the disposal of the Paraguayan Government financial facilities of up to 20 billion pesetas to be used between 1994 and 1995. The credits can be used for the importation of goods and services from Spain.

Out of the total amount mentioned above, 10 billion pesetas will be used for concessional credits for the total or partial implementation of development projects. Fifty percent of this amount will be provided by the Development Assistance Fund (FAD) and 50 percent will be commercial credits with conditions approved by the OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development]. Projects will be studied on a case by case basis, per agreement between the two countries and at Paraguay's or Spain's request.

The other 10 billion pesetas will be reserved for financing imports of Spanish assets and services needed by the Paraguayan manufacturing sector. This sum will be divided into two stages: One stage of 5 billion pesetas for medium and long-term loans, and the other stage of 5 billion pesetas for short-term loans.

A maximum of 15 percent of the loans for Spanish assets and services can be used for local expenses. The contracts can be made in Spanish pesetas, U.S. dollars, or in any other convertible currency.

The agreement also calls for the implementation of measures to promote contacts between businessmen of the two countries through the exchange of trade missions, participation in fairs, the dissemination of trade and business opportunities through the competent organizations of the two countries, and the holding of specialized seminars.

The document also mentions the agreement on reciprocal promotion and protection of investments that was signed on 11 October 1993, and the desire to begin negotiations for the signing of an agreement to prevent double taxation on earnings and assets.

Treaty Signed on Transfer of Prisoners

PY0909003294 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Sep 94 p 8

[Text] President Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez this morning signed a treaty on the transfer of convicted criminals. The treaty will permit Spanish and Paraguayan prisoners in the other country's jails to serve their sentences in their home country. The ceremony took place at the Lopez Palace Independence Hall.

According to the Article 2 of the treaty, Spanish nationals serving a sentence or security measures in Paraguay will be allowed to serve their sentences in Spain or under Spanish officials' custody. Paraguayans in Spanish jails will receive the same treatment. The transfer of a convicted criminal, who is defined as a person who has been sentenced to serve a penalty or security measure, can be requested by the country condemning him or by the country where the individual will serve his sentence.

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Each state will name an official who will be responsible for fulfilling the functions provided for in this treaty, which has no expiration date. The communication between the signatory countries to this effect will be carried out via diplomatic channels.

The document establishes that before deciding on the transfer of a criminal, the country making the detention will take into account all pertinent factors, the probability that the transfer will contribute to the individual's social rehabilitation, the type and gravity of the crime, and the individual's criminal record. The country making the detention will also take into consideration the detainee's health condition, age, and ties, such as residence, family relations, or other reasons, he might have in the state where he will serve his sentence.

The agreement will be applicable only if, among other things, the acts or omissions for which the individual has been penalized are also punishable in the other state, if the individual is a national of the state where he will serve his sentence at the time the request is received and approved, and if the sentence can no longer be appealed. Once transferred, the individual will serve his sentence in accordance with the laws of the state receiving him. Only the state condemning him will be able to grant him amnesty, pardon him, or reduce his sentence or security measure in accordance with its own Constitution and laws. An important note is that a criminal who is transferred to serve his sentence in the other country cannot be detained, tried, or sentenced for the same act for which he was sentenced in the first place.

Discusses Democratization

PY0809112694 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Sep 94 pp 4, 5

["Excerpts" of interview with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez by ULTIMA HORA, NOTICIAS, HOY, and ABC COLOR reporters in Asuncion; date not given]

[Text] [ULTIMA HORA] Freedoms are not enough to guarantee people's rights if they do not help to achieve social and economic development. Do you not think so?

[Gonzalez] Democracy and freedoms are necessary conditions, but they are not enough.... Democracy has the great advantage of being able to change and, in the end, the people decide their own future. A democratic process can make mistakes or not, but it will not always make mistakes. I think it is perfectly possible to have an efficient democratic government.

During political transitions it is necessary to have a clear realization of shared responsibilities, and as a consequence, a considerable degree of consensus. In a modern democracy the executive branch must be capable of making decisions.... There must be a broad consensus on the rules of the game and the executive and legislative branches' roles. Society's real problem after a long authoritarian experience is that politicians greatly mistrust the executive branch, which is the symbol of authoritarianism, and try to reduce the executive branch's prerogatives. But a modern democracy requires a strong executive branch supervised by congress.

[HOY] We are witnessing an accommodation of powerful groups that became very strong during a dictatorship. They are reluctant to lose control and constantly place hurdles in the path of the process. What factors helped you administer the transition in your country and correctly handle these power groups?

[Gonzalez] What you mentioned is more noticeable when you come out of a dictatorship and power is concentrated in the hands of certain groups. To be honest, the essential player of the first transition stage was Adolfo Suarez. All political groups represented in congress agreed on a certain transition program.... The agreement is part of a way of making politics. It conditions everything else.... The other groups, what we could call factual power groups, end up losing their relative importance and tend to withdraw.

Speaking about the Paraguayan experience, for instance, here we have a fact that we should not forget. Here the Armed Forces headed the movement toward democracy. It is an unquestionable fact and a very important historical factor. Things were different in Spain. The Armed Forces abstained from participating in the process. Here they were very active in the events that unleashed the change....

The only way to break the transition wall is with consensus, which means constraint on the part of each of the political players.... All forces must hold back on some of their aspirations to be able to agree with other forces.

[NOTICIAS] It is true that the Armed Forces have played a very important role in the transition process, but the reports on military meddling in politics have been the greatest hurdles hindering the process.

[Gonzalez] I have had some experience with the Armed Forces. In 1981 we had an attempted coup by a military group, a minority military group, I believe.... The Armed Forces have accepted the new decisionmaking process.

[ULTIMA HORA] What is civil society's most important responsibility with respect to the Armed Forces, particularly in the area of introducing changes in the national life in order to regain their importance in the nation?

[Gonzalez] I cannot speak in terms of civil society. Civil society has a meaning that is very difficult to grasp.... The problem is with the role played by the different institutions that make up the state. Congress has the power to produce laws. The problem is to make good laws, laws with a broad degree of consensus. The executive branch has to make decisions.

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[ABC COLOR] Many politicians praised you here and some said that you were a role model for Paraguayan politicians. You had some problems in Spain....

[Gonzalez] ...I still have very serious problems....

[ABC COLOR] You have been seriously impugned on account of some of your aides, who said you were done for....

[Gonzalez] First and foremost, I would like to say that I have been head of the Spanish Government for 12 years. I have won four elections in a row. Another consideration is that I have been secretary general of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party despite the fact that I am at an age at which people generally start a political life at a certain level. This is therefore the first question. One loses face. As is only natural, citizens then begin to consider the possibility of changing options. Second, we have made mistakes. Third, we have had some corruption cases that were very serious and that caused quite a turmoil in Spanish society.... As a result of this, we lost credibility among the people and our popularity has slumped by eight, nine, or ten points in public opinion surveys, which is quite significant.

[ABC COLOR] [People's Party President Jose Maria] Aznar (his political rival from a right-wing party) contends that you are finished in politics.

[Gonzalez] It is his duty to say this. It goes without saying that the opposition leader is always inclined to say that the government is going to rack and ruin. If he did not say I am finished, he would have no possibility of leading the government. By saying that the era of that gentleman is over, he implies that his is beginning.

[ABC COLOR] And you do not think so.

[Gonzalez] No. To me ... especially when you reporters ask me. I am not engaging in political dialectics. I just say that we shall see. It is the citizens, rather than Aznar, who will settle the issue. We shall see at the polls whether the people have more confidence in him than in what I represent.

[UTLIMA HORA] Would Aznar's victory represent a return to the Spanish Right?

[Gonzalez] That is correct. It is a conservative option that is absolutely legitimate and the Spanish people may, at one point, opt for a conservative party.

[ULTIMA HORA] Is that the result of the influence of neoliberalism in Spain?

[Gonzalez] I do not think so, among other reasons because elections are never decided by such sophisticated concepts. In my opinion, this is an idea that is handled more by the press, by politicians, than by the man in the street.

[HOY] Do you agree with those who argue that both rich and Third World countries will have to be prepared to coexist with the problem of unemployment for a long time?

[Gonzalez] I believe that unemployment—and Spain has a very high unemployment rate—is probably one of the most serious problems confronting industrial societies. Developing countries are not necessarily affected by it. There may be a very serious unemployment problem here in Paraguay, though. The concept of what constitutes an unemployed person varies from country to country.... Under the dictatorship in Spain, there was no bread in rural areas. There was only seasonal work: Spaniards worked during the grape harvest or picking olives. Now Moroccans come to do that job.

[HOY] Is unemployment in Spain an economic or a political problem?

[Gonzalez] It is a social problem that has economic and political dimensions because part of the human capital of a society is not being used and it, therefore, poses a problem for the country's economy and also represents a political problem.

What people are beginning to wonder about are the consequences engendered by globalization of the economy.... Everybody thought that the Industrial Revolution would give rise to a huge number of unemployed, and in fact, societies rose to the challenge and the result was that many more jobs were created. Nobody is in a position to say whether this is not going to happen again.

[ABC COLOR] Here we talk a lot about "rubble-men," the recycling of men who were active in politics in the past. How was the Spanish transition? What do you think a transition should be like?

[Gonzalez] Czech President Vaclav Havel was very concerned with the effects of a law approved to purge and establish responsibilities for past events. I told him a story that I also want you to hear because it affects events in our country. Adolfo Suarez was a minister during the regime that ruled just before the democratic period. Fraga (Iribarne) was also a minister for many years during the dictatorship. These men played an important role in the democratic process. Well, a month after I assumed power I traveled to Seville, my home town. A police superintendent was waiting for me at the airport. He was in charge of my security. He placed himself at my disposal and told me he was in charge there. I greeted him: "How are you?" calling him by his name. The man was very surprised to hear his name. He asked me: "Do you know me?" "I know you. You arrested me in 1974," I told him. The man who arrested me in 1974 was now responsible for my security in 1982. This story explains much more than a long speech about Spain's transition. In Spain we did not exclude anyone. We decided to let the people decide whether to exclude anyone. We were not tempted, like East European countries, to ban the Communist Party. Why should we ban it? Some people might agree, some others might not agree. Our experience has been to overcome the past by turning the pages of history....

[ABC COLOR] That experience is possible if the people participate in the exclusion or inclusion. But in Paraguay the exclusion comes from above, from the seat of power.

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[Gonzalez] My argument is not valid everywhere. In the end citizens will elect those who will rule them. You will tell me that freedom of expression is too conditioned here. No. The conditions were something of the past. You must conquer spaces for freedom....

[ULTIMA HORA] And people's criticism?

[Gonzalez] Criticism is expressed in an absolutely irrevocable way when you vote. The press can criticize as much as it wants, but it cannot replace voters.

[ULTIMA HORA] Do you think people's sovereignty is effectively exercised in Paraguay?

[Gonzalez] I have enough information to tell you—we lived a similar experience for years—that people's sovereignty is exercised as never before in history. And this participation is gradually increasing....

[ULTIMA HORA] Do you think a similar process also occurred in Paraguay?

[Gonzalez] Everything in life is relative, but never in history have the Paraguayan people had a clearer occasion to express their opinions with plurality. The experience can be improved. It must be improved, without a doubt.

[ABC COLOR] You have said that power wears you out. You have been in power for twelve years. Will you run again?

[Gonzalez] Yes. People frequently ask me the same question in Spain. I have never made that decision personally. If the party believes that I must run again, it is possible I will accept the decision. The last time I announced I would not run again the party had problems deciding what to do.

[ABC COLOR] You have the legacy of an authoritarian government. People, at least in this country, do not understand well. People are suspicious of a person who is reelected three or four times.

[Gonzalez] I think that is also a conceptual error. Elections vary according to the way political systems work. I do not run on a presidential ticket. I head the list of my party's deputies. We won a majority but it is congress that decides who will become head of the government.

[ABC COLOR] What about the risks of corruption? You have had a taste of the problem. Some of your personal friends have been involved.

[Gonzalez] Yes. I hope you do not consider them my personal friends because they are not. But I do not exclude the possibility of a friend being involved in corruption. I still have not gone through that experience. Not a single personal friend has been involved in corruption.

Uruguay

Plan Uncovered for 'Catastrophic Attack' in Argentine Border Town

PY0909211794 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 1 Sep 94 p 1

[Article by Carlos Lemos from Ciudad del Este, Paraguay]

[Text] The Argentine border town of Puerto Iguazu in mid-October 1993 could have been the scene of another catastrophic attack, much more serious than the one on 18 July against the headquarters of the AMIA [Israeli Argentine Mutual Association] in Buenos Aires, if special Mosad agents had not canceled a meeting of 400 rabbis from throughout the continent.

Intelligence work by Israeli spies in Ciudad del Este [Paraguay] uncovered a terrorist group that was preparing "a really serious attack against the Jewish infrastructure."

According to information obtained by a team of EL PAIS reporters specially sent to the zone known as the Three Borders (Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay), the rabbis' meeting was to have been held in a posh hotel in Puerto Iguazu.

The organizers took all the necessary measures. They investigated the tourism operators that reserved the flights and the hotel rooms and even the persons that rented the vehicles for the use of conference participants.

Everything was going normally and a change of plan was not foreseen, but the organizers did not know about the investigations by Israeli agents just under 2 km away in Paraguayan territory. The agents were following eight Muslims of the Ansarallah terrorist group, a branch of the Hizballah.

The conclusion of the investigation was that "it would have been collective suicide" if the rabbis had held their meeting.

Without hindering the presence of the Mosad agents, Ciudad del Este was also the scene of hectic activities by U.S. secret services (CIA) agents, some of whom returned after a brief trip to Montevideo, Uruguay, where they contacted Uruguayan intelligence experts.

Fortuitously EL PAIS made contact with two secret agents and had a fluid dialogue with members of the Argentine and Brazilian intelligence services, who stressed that Latin America has become the "theater of operations of terrorist groups that will strike again at any time and in any place."

The contacts showed our special correspondents photographs of the meeting places of the members of the Arab community, who are believed to be members of extremist groups, and photographs of mosques in the neighboring city of Foz do Iguacu, Brazil.

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One agent revealed that "the Argentines were right to alert public opinion to the possibility of more attacks because they handle confidential information, including the objectives of the terrorists. The seat of the AMIA was considered an objective after the plan to blow up the hotel in Puerto Iguazu had been aborted."

Intelligence files contain the name of a person residing in Foz do Iguacu whose influence goes beyond the business community and into political circles. The agents said this person is a member of the Party of God (Hizballah) and could have relations with the Lebanese that "recently arrived in Ciudad del Este."

Representative of the Arab community, who were also interviewed by EL PAIS, stressed that this person "has nothing to do with the Party of God, that he is a victim of Israeli intelligence services which are continuing a campaign to discredit Islam." A Lebanese spokesperson stressed: "No Muslim has anything to do with the Buenos Aires attack. It is an Argentine problem that must be resolved by Argentina and its government cannot gratuitously issue accusations as it did with Iran."

Several Lebanese who were consulted agree, stressing: "The West has been unjust with the Arab people. We suffer persecution that has been orchestrated for 100 years in three capitals—Washington, London, and Paris—but there will come a day when we Arabs will break through artificial borders."

Venezuela

Deputies Urge Castro To Promote Reform; Aid Requested From Government

PA0809150594 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 7 Sep 94 p 4

[Article by Gina Rodriguez]

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies has approved an agreement in favor of the Cuban people that urges President Fidel Castro to start promoting changes based on democratic principles and asks the Venezuelan Government to give humanitarian aid to the island's inhabitants.

The agreement, which was a COPEI [Social Christian Party] initiative, was not supported by the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism], Causa R [Radical Cause Party], PCV [Communist Party of Venezuela], URD [Democratic Republican Union], and MEP [People's Electoral Movement] blocs, which cast dissenting votes. National Convergence parliamentarians, including Jose Luis Yepez and Manuel Alfredo Rodriguez, as well as COPEI's Douglas Dager did not support the agreement either.

These parliamentarians argued that the original agreement presented by the COPEI bloc had been severely modified and that the new version left out mention of the U.S. blockade, which has a serious bearing on the Cuban crisis and allows inadmissible meddling in the affairs of the island's government.

"It is a servile agreement with no dignity," Deputy Carquez said.

The document reads as follows:

In view of:

—The worsening of the Cuban situation reflected by the so-called rafters' crisis.

—The concern for Cuba and the Cuban people that has been repeatedly voiced by the Chamber of Deputies over the years and that is based on the solidarity that unites the two peoples and on the common ideals of liberty and justice that inspired the independence of the two nations.

Agrees to:

1. Voice its conviction that the crisis is not only a product of the migration problem but of a serious domestic situation in the Cuban nation.

2. Urge the Cuban Government to begin a process of changes based on the effective and sovereign participation of the Cuban people.

3. Urge the Venezuelan people to honor their tradition of solidarity by giving humanitarian aid to the people of Cuba through donations of food and medicine to be distributed through international and nongovernment organizations.

4. Urge the international community, especially Latin American countries, to make diplomatic efforts to find a solution to the critical situation in Cuba.

Police, Colombia Discuss Extraditing Trafficker

PA0709170894 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Report by Efren Perez Hernanadez in Carabobo; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] In announcing that on Friday night Colombia's Administrative Department of Security [DAS] arrested drug trafficker Larry Tovar Acuna, as we reported in a timely manner, Jose Ramon Lazo Ricardi, director of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], said that talks are now being held between the Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Justice Ministry, and Colombian authorities to arrange the transfer of the Venezuelan drug trafficker in the next few days. Regarding the processing work being carried out right now by authorities in both countries, PTJ Director Jose Ramon Lazo Ricardi explained:

[Begin Lazo Ricardi recording] We are in touch with the Colombian police, specifically with DAS and the National Police, with which we have held numerous talks, trying to resolve problems that take place between

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our two countries. As you well know, the border is used to try and dodge the justice system of one of the two countries. This requires very close cooperation between the two police forces.

In the specific case of Larry Tovar, at one time the Justice Ministry received a death certificate for him. This certificate, of course, sought to give the impression that Larry Tovar had died in Colombia. We thought this was a trick designed to get a pending case against him dismissed here in Venezuela. We contacted Colombia, and together with DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services], which undoubtedly did an extraordinary job, because our officials made direct contact with the Colombian police. [sentence as heard] According to follow-up investigations into this document, the Colombian police were able to arrest Larry Tovar Acuna. [end recording]

PTJ Director Jose Ramon Lazo Ricardi added that the outcome of the talks between the Colombian and Venezuelan Governments is awaited, and it is expected that Larry Tovar Acuna will be deported to Venezuela in view of the fact that our country's courts have two requests pending on this matter.

[Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 5 September, in a one-minute report during the "Union Radio News" newscast, reports that "confusion" over Larry Salvador Tovar's nationality has delayed his transfer from Colombia. DAS says Tovar claims he is a Colombian citizen. The PTJ says that documentation has now been sent to prove he is a Venezuelan citizen.]

Ministry Closes Consulates, Transfers Diplomats

PA0709185494 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 Sep 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] As part of its austerity program, the Venezuelan Foreign Relations Ministry has closed its consulates in Madrid, Paris, and Lisbon, and ordered the return of 167 diplomats. The closure of the consulates, whose work will be assumed by the respective embassies, was published in the Official Gazette. Foreign Relations Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas announced the transfers and pointed out that this measure will save the country more than $7 million.

But Burelli also requested additional credit from the Finance Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of nearly $27 million to cover a deficit created by exchange controls. Committee members approved the additional credit.

Minister on Investment Incentives, Issues

PA0909183494 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 5 Sep 94 p E-2

[Report on interview with Venezuelan Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez by Rosita Regalado in Caracas on 4 September]

[Text] Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez contends that "there will be no increase in fuel prices for the time being. [no closing quotation mark as published] He says that this is a very sensitive issue which is being carefully evaluated so that when the moment arrives to implement it, it will not have a negative impact, especially on the lower income sectors. He adds that if such a measure is not carefully implemented it would be contrary to the spirit of the macroeconomic plan.

The minister believes that there is need to genuinely assess Venezuela's productive proficiency and to recover the Venezuelan people's real purchasing power. This need has prompted the government to evaluate several incentives aimed at encouraging the establishment of new business ventures that will in turn promote employment.

[Sosa] A plan to encourage the purchase of equipment and machinery needed by new companies could be activated in the short term, starting with subscribing Japanese capital to the iron byproducts sector.

Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez made the announcement during an EL NACIONAL interview on 4 September.

[Sosa] During a 3 September meeting in Guayana with Alfredo Gruber, several CVG [Venezuela Corporation of Guayana] executives, and several Japanese investors, I was informed of the Japanese interest in building a briquette manufacturing plant. But they were asking for incentives that would allow them to cut initial costs. The investor I am talking about is the Kobe Steel Company.

Sosa Rodriguez explains that incentives could and should be extended to all investors who decide to establish a business venture in Venezuela.

[Regalado] What would these investments consist of?

[Sosa] We would provide custom tariffs and sales tax exemptions, specifically related to the purchase of machinery and equipment essential to establish the new business venture. This would apply not only to ventures in the Guayana region, as originally requested by the Japanese syndicate planning to invest $200 million over the next six months, but to all new companies willing to set up throughout Venezuela.

The minister also mentioned that during his weekend visit to Guayana he was able to visit other projects that made him feel optimistic.

[Sosa] Among other sites, we were able to visit two wood processing projects to be built in the community of Uverito. One of these projects is by Cartones de Venezuela and Smurfit. The other is a joint venture between Venepal [expansion unknown] and a Canadian syndicate. Both projects are scheduled to begin in 1995.

[Regalado] What is your assessment of the Guayana companies and their potential, especially now after the

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privatization announcements and other management options that have been recommended during the past months?

[Sosa] A lot of progress has been made in the negotiations with respect to transforming companies such as Alcasa [Caroni Aluminum, Inc.] for example, into a mixed entreprise. The same is taking place with Minerven [expansion unkown]. We must keep in mind that when the CVG was established, its main objective was to encourage the creation and operation of mixed enterprises, with the state holding a minority interest. Another objective was for operational revenues to be used to encourage development, not only in the Guayana region but also throughout the country. But all that ended with the administration that took office in 1974 and as a result of the unexpected oil price increase that happened then. Unfortunately, today we must acknowledge that that was an incorrect decision.

[Regalado] Do these changes or return to the past by the CVG imply there will be changes in the privatization process that is under way?

[Sosa] No. The companies to be privatized are those belonging to the Venezuelan Investment Fund [FIV]. Those companies whose stocks remain under CVG's control will be managed under a plan of mixed enterprises rather than a privatization plan. Obviously, all the country's key companies—including Edelca [Caroni River Electrification Project]—will remain under the complete state control; that is, all electric power generation.

Minister Sosa stated that all these changes in the management and ownership of Guayana's basic companies are direct incentives for capital to embark on new ventures, especially in the industrial sector. By chance, it belongs to the Economic Recovery Program, which will be explained publicly in eight days, because the revitalization of industry has great significance.

The same holds true for recovery in the agricultural sector. The government already has a plan to refinance the debt of the agricultural sector for another seven years. Now we must establish a plan to fund new crops. A plan similar to the one prepared for the agricultural sector is also being drafted, but it will be part of the Economic Recovery Program.

Fuel Prices Will Not Increase

Finance Minister Sosa also indicated that, as part of the macroeconomic plan, issues related to oil by-products are being carefully examined so that when adjustments are implemented, lower income sectors will not be adversely affected.

As for the proposal to exempt Petroven [Venezuelan Oil Company] from paying taxes to cover an increase in fuel prices, Sosa stated emphatically that the idea is not to establish a new tax on revenues to be generated by a possible fuel price hike, as some press reports have speculated.

Thus far, fuel prices will not be increased. This is a very delicate subject which we should not discuss until a decision is reached and ready to come into effect. In any case, the government is handling this matter with extreme care to avoid victimizing those who really need cheap transportation or exacerbating the inflation problem because such a move would not be consistent with the Economic Recovery Program. The Economic Recovery Program seeks to lower the inflation level and to increase significantly, with the unanimous decision of the entire government, the production of goods and services.

Favorable Changes

I believe the most important recent development is that the exchange control plan is working with greater speed and its guidelines meet the various foreign currency needs more appropriately. Sensible people abroad are realizing that this control plan is necessary. In addition, ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] mechanisms are facilitating our trade with Latin America, particularly the countries of the Cartagena Agreement.

Authorities Freeze Banco Latino Companies' Assets

PA0909184894 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Sep 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The Attorney General's Office ordered the assets of 221 Banco Latino companies frozen. These companies are debtors of the Banco Latino [words indistinct] for approximately 95 billion bolivares. The attorney general, applying Article 301 of 3 August 1994, announced this measure against the companies. These precautions were taken to secure the companies' assets for approximately 94 billion bolivares. Precautionary measures were not taken against Latinmer Inversiones, Latino Sociedad Financiera, and Banco Maracaibo, because they belong to the Banco Latino to which they owe more than 1 billion bolivares.

The Attorney General's Office instructed the Justice Ministry to tell the registrars not to protocolize documents in the event there is an attempt to transfer and collect these assets. Some of the companies whose asssets were frozen by the Attorney General's Office are Banco Latino N.V. Curacao, (?Adualatic), Sofimara, Consorcio Hotelero [word indistinct], Seguros Cordillera, Urbanizadora B.H.O., Arrendadora Maracaibo, Latino Americana de Seguros, and Consorcio Cordillera, among others.

FIV President on Liquidation of National Airline

PA0709190494 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Report by Cecilia Cayonne; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

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[Text] Carlos Bernard, president of the Venezuelan Investment Fund [FIV], has announced that the next step will be to liquidate Aeropostal Airlines. Bernard explained that in line with the decision made by the board of directors of Aeropostal Airlines, the company will now be liquidated. The cost for this step, however, has not been established.

[Begin Bernard recording] An estimated amount of over 6 billion bolivares was proposed some months ago, when privatization was possible. This amount is supposed to determine how much the FIV will have to put up, so that whoever buys Aeropostal can have some guarantee that the amount will cover the company's liabilities. The amount will be known only after the liquidation takes place. [end recording]

Bernard said that the liquidation process will be reviewed in the next few days.

State May Assume Control of Banco Consolidado

PA1109200194 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Sep 94

[From "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Another bank will reportedly join the number of financial institutions in the hands of the state unless adequate alternatives are found. Banco Consolidado could share the fate of Banco de Venezuela—the latter institution wound up in the hands of the state—if none of the options being prepared by the Bank Superintendency is accepted by the Financial Emergency Board.

In view of this, the Bank Superintendency's Technical Commission met to prepare the various alternatives that could be presented to the Financial Emergency Board on Monday. This was reported by Bank Superintendency President Tesalio Cadenas

Banco Consolidado proposed a recuperation plan due to its lack of liquidity. This is why it will receive help from Fogade [Deposit Guarantee and Banking Protection Fund]. But apparently this did not work. Thus the Bank Superintendency is preparing several alternatives.

[Begin Cadenas recording] The scenario is that [words indistinct] with the workers. Management and the workers made a proposal in which they are supplying 1 billion bolivares capitalizing (?700 million) bolivares jointly with another bank and with Fogade's participation. This is what we refer to as joint participation. [end recording]

It was also learned that the Banco de Venezuela's reorganization includes personnel reductions.

French Guiana

Ariane Rocket With U.S. Satellite Launched

PA0909014594 Paris AFP in Spanish 0049 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Kourou, French Guiana, 9 Sep (AFP)—The 67th launch of the European Ariane rocket took place at 0029 GMT, Friday, from the Kourou Space Center in French Guiana, carrying the U.S. Telstar-402 telecommunications satellite aboard.

The rocket is scheduled to place the satellite in orbit 19 minutes and 53 seconds after take off.

Further on Successful Launch

PA0909022494 Paris AFP in Spanish 0124 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Kourou, French Guiana, 9 Sep (AFP)—The 67th launch of the European Ariane rocket, at 0029 GMT on Friday from the Kourou Space Center in French Guiana, placed in orbit with "total success" the U.S. Telstar-402 telecommunications satellite, a spokesperson for the center has reported.

The satellite was launched into orbit by the rocket 19 minutes and 53 seconds after takeoff.

The successful launch confirms the dominant position of the European rocket in the very lucrative market of satellite launching, in which Ariane has a long list of requests. At least 39 satellites are to be launched by Ariane rockets, after this 67th launch, for a total of $3.3 billion.

This fifth launch this year takes place less than a month after two telecommunications satellites, the Brazilian Brasilsat-B1 and Turkish Turksat-1B were launched into orbit last 10 August.

The next Ariane rocket launch is scheduled for 4 October and will carry two satellites, one Mexican, Solidarity-2, and Thailand, Thaicom-2, aboard.

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